VOLUME 107, NUMBER 51

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SUNDAY



DECEMBER 11, 2011

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Grand jury indicts 21

Duo true-billed on child injury charges

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man and woman were indicted on charges of injury to a child and abandoning/endangering a child by a Howard County grand jury this week, charges stemming from the alleged Oct. 28 beating of a one-year-old female.

Johnny Michael Edmondson II, 21, of 300 S. Tulane (currently being held at the county jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond), was indicted on charges of injury to a child (firstdegree felony) and injury to a child (two counts, both thirddegree felonies).

Vanessa Ann Armendarez, 26, also of 300 S. Tulane (currently being held at the county jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond), was indicted on two counts of abandon/endangering a child-imminent bodily injury (both second-degree felonies).

Both were arrested Oct. 28 after officers with the Big Spring Police Department responded to an apartment in the 300 block of Tulane in reference to a report of an injured child.

"The child had severe swelling around her eyes and jaw, as well as bruising to her face and chest," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for BSPD, said. "The child also had red whelps on her legs. Officers called for an ambulance and the girl was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She was later flown to Lubbock as a precaution due to the possibility of a closed head injury.

"The mother (Armendarez) lives in the apartment with two children. No injuries were found on the second child. The investigation centered on Edmondson because he had been with the child overnight while the mother worked. When the mother returned home from work Friday morning, no effort was made (by Armendarez and Edmondson) to get the baby medical help. Police had been notified by an individual not of the home.

"The mother was arrested and charged with endangering a child due to not seeking medical attention and leaving the child in what law enforcement officials feel was an unsafe situation," he added.

Also indicted during the grand jury session were:

• Lafawn Johnson Cantu,

See **DUO**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno Students from the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade classes at Elbow Elementary put on their annual Christmas program for parents and family members Friday morning. This year's program was focused around "No more cookies for Santa."



Forsan trustees eyeing ECHS program By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORSAN — This Early College High School idea seems to be catching on.

Four days after Big Spring Independent School District

trustees discussed the possibility of establishing an Early College High School program, their counterparts in Forsan will do the same when they hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the administration wing board room.

An ECHS program would allow students to take college credit courses as early as their freshman year in high school. Students in the program could conceivably graduate high school with either an associate's degree in academics or vocational certification in work-

force training. Several Forsan ISD officials accompanied their colleagues from Big Spring and Howard College on recent fact-finding

See FISD, Page 3A



14 shopping days to Christmas

Quality Plumbing 432-264-7006



City crews demolish Mary Witkowski's previous residence,

NEW LISTING!

which was beyond repair, in order to make room for a new house which will be built by volunteers through the Spring of Siloam.

Job corps providing hope, home to woman

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

Dreams do come true, just ask local resident Mary Witkowski. Witkowski entered the Spring of Siloam Chris-

tian Women's Job Corps this fall and has received training in various areas. According to Tina Buchanan, director of Spring of Siloam, Witkowski See CORPS, Page 3A



Leah Hughes - 432-270-2416 Christie Larson - 432-213-4647 Janet Higgins - 432-213-5454 Pat Rutledge - 432-270-7706

Pat Hardison - 432-270-8277 Kim Pollard - 432-213-2842









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Obituaries

Edwinna Carr

Edwinna Carr, age 95, of Odessa passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, in Odessa. Services are pending with Sunset Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m.

- STEVEN VALENCIA GAMBOA, 28, of 506 N. Nolan, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with previous con-
- LOUIS ANTONIO SILVA, 23, of 1210 Lindbergh. was arrested Friday on a charge of possession of controlled substance less than one gram.
- DAVID GARZA JR., 26, of 1905 Wasson Rd., was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SHIMEON RASHAD MAGERS, 29, of 1511 Tucson, was arrested Friday on a warrants from other agency (two counts), driving without being secured by a safety belt, failed to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle inspection certification, fail to appear (nine counts).
- KENDALL CHANELLE JACKSON, 24, of 3304 W. Hwy 80 25, was arrested Friday on a warrant from other agency (two counts), driving while license invalid and fail to appear.
- DAVID RAY HENSON, 42, of 5205 Longshore Dr., was arrested Friday on a charge of public in-
- PAUL EVERETTE JORDAN, 51, transient, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CHRISTOPHER GENE BAKER, 25, of 1804 Mittel Ave., was arrested Saturday on a warrant for speed-
- CHRISTIAN ROSALES, 22, of 607 Douglas St... was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxi-
- THEFT was reported:
- In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- In the 800 block of W I-20.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 800 block of W. 17th Street.

Support Groups

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
- PEP Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact Jody at 432-699-6640.



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Take Note

- · An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.
- · A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Mike Williams, 39, a lifetime resident of Big Spring who died Nov. 1. He leaves behind a wife and seven children. Any donations can be brought to the funeral home office at 301 E. 24th St. For more information, call 267-8288.
- · American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
- Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallasarea hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.
- · A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in dire need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5





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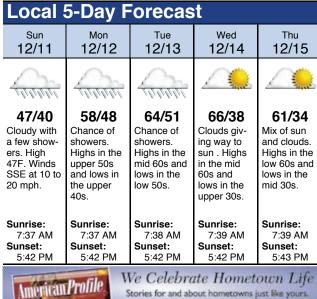
~ Probate Law

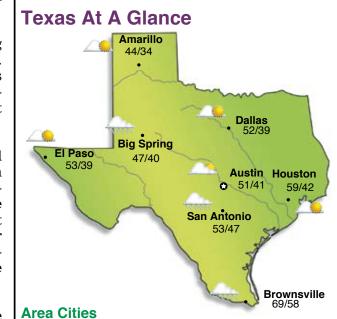
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Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization Director of State Bar of Texas (05-08) Robert D. Miller P.C. Attorney at Law 432.267.7449 608 Scurry St. Big Spring,

Today's Weather





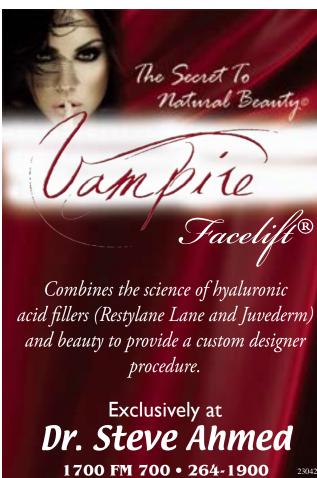
City Abilene Amarillo 44 34 pt sunny Livingston 56 36 pt sunny 52 35 mst sunny Austin 41 cloudy Longview Beaumont 58 35 pt sunny Lubbock 45 36 mixed Lufkin 51 59 Brownwood 40 rain Midland 47 42 rain 52 pt sunny Corpus Christi Ravmondville 64 56 rain 38 pt sunny Rosenberg 43 pt sunny Corsicana 59 Dallas 39 pt sunny San Antonio 53 47 rain Del Rio 48 44 rain San Marcos 52 41 cloudy 53 39 pt sunny El Paso 52 37 pt sunny Sulphur Springs 40 rain 42 rain Fort Stockton Sweetwater Gainesville 36 pt sunny 35 pt sunny 50 35 pt sunny Weatherford Greenville 49 36 cloudy Houston 42 pt sunny 48 38 cloudy Wichita Falls

National Cities

	_			
City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City
Atlanta	52	35	mst sunny	Minnea
Boston	39	28	sunny	New Yo
Chicago	40	27	sunny	Phoeni
Dallas	52	39	pt sunny	San Fra
Denver	45	24	mst sunny	Seattle
Houston	59	42	pt sunny	St. Lou
Los Angeles	60	46	pt sunny	Washin
Miami	80	69	rain	

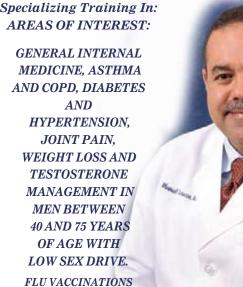
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FISD

Continued from Page 1A

trips to ECHS programs across the state, came impressed with the idea. While not as far along in the decisionmaking process as BSISD administrators, Forsan appears willing to follow suit with plans to adopt the pro-

"It's in the very preliminary stages right now," Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "We're trying to decide how to provide information to other groups, and our school board seemed the best place to start.

CORPS

Continued from Page 1A

will be entering classes

at Howard College this

"This is a big project

that will end up putting

into the community,'

Witkowski has spent

her adult life as a care-

giver for her mother and

has hindered her from

being able to find work

outside the home. Due to

lack of work outside the

home, her job training

has been limited. How-

ever, since entering the

program she has been

receiving job training

skills in the area of com-

The community pro-

gram provided by Spring

of Siloam is aimed at en-

abling women to receive

the needed training to

get them out of poverty.

In order to help fur-

ther Witkowski in ac-

complishing her goals.

the City of Big Spring

and the men of Spring

Creek Fellowship have

volunteered to help with

the project of building

Witkowski a new home.

Her previous dwelling,

in the 400 block of Nolan.

belonged to her mother

and was considered to

be beyond repair, ac-

which

upcoming semester.

Buchanan said.

grandmother.

puters.

"Basically, we're trying to determine whether (an ECHS program) fits the needs of our program," Johnson added.

If Forsan decides to go the ECHS route, it will do so separately from Big Spring's effort, Johnson noted. "But we're a long

way from deciding,

he added. "There are a lot of ... issues to be decided upon. This is just a starting point." In other business

Monday, trustees will consider:

- Casting votes for the Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors. • Policy updates.

 - Personnel matters.

cording to Buchanan.

"Since she entered

the program a need was

discovered which has

since been taken under

the wing of members of

the church and several

other volunteers," Bu-

As part of the project,

the city of Big Spring

has started demolish-

ing Witkowski's house

in order for a new 576

square-foot home. The

house will include a

bedroom, living room,

kitchen, utility area and

bathroom. Due to the

large nature of the proj-

ect, donations are being

"She didn't tell us

about her situation,

but we were able to find

out through our volun-

teers," Derrick Looney,

of Spring of Siloam,

said. "We believe in

providence and that God

opened the doors for us

to do something that

He continued, "It's not

just about us, but we

have an opportunity to

act on our faith. After all

the Bible says it is more

blessed to give than to

At this point, the proj-

ect volunteers are in

need of monetary dona-

tions which will be used

for lumber and other

building materials. Vol-

receive."

makes a statement."

requested.

chanan said.

DUO

Continued from Page 1A

38, of 508 Young, unauthorized use of a vehicle (state jail felony). • Fernando Diaz Fran-

- co, 45, of 1106 W. Third St., possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony). · Jesse Joe Guzman,
- 28, currently being held at the county jail, evading arrest (state jail felony). RichardLeeMcEvers,
- 44, of 416 Stoneybrook St. in Midland, possession of a controlled substance (two counts, both state jail felonies).
- Darrell Scott Shults, 28, currently being held

unteers however won't

be turned away accord-

"We (Spring Creek

Fellowship) is kind of

taking the lead, but this

is really a joint effort of

several churches and

groups. We may not all

go to the same church,

but this is a way we can

all come together for a

good cause," Loonoey

said. "Especially it be-

ing Christmas time. It's

not only about going to

church, but about being

Due to recent weather,

the building schedule

has been set back a bit,

but according to Loo-

ney, the project should

be able to be completed

within four workdays.

The slab that will serve

as the foundation has

been donated and just

has to be put in place

once the house is able

to be demolished com-

pletely. After the slab

has been installed, the

rest of the house will be

able to be constructed.

the church."

ing to Looney.

at the county jail, theft more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000 (state jail felony) and theft – more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000 (thirddegree felony).

- Tephanie A. Shults, 38, of 2511 Fisher Rd., theft - more than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000 (third-degree felony). Simon Eladio Zu-
- biate Jr., 31, of 910 W. Fourth St., possession of a controlled substance (second-degree felony). Anastacio Carrasco
- Baeza, 59, of 604 S. Benedict St. in Stanton, driving while intoxicated (first-degree felony, enhanced).
- Tonya Renea Barrick, 41, of 605 Dealy Rd., possession of a con-

"We hope this serves

as encouragement to

others to look for a way

they can help others.

Hopefully, it will bring

people, including my-

self, to be more attentive

to the needs in our com-

munity," Looney said.

"This isn't about us, it's

just that we get to do it

For those wanting to

donate to the project,

send donations to Spring

Creek Fellowship, P.O.

Box 2070, Big Spring,

Texas 79721 or 702 John-

son Street, Big Spring,

Texas 79720. Donations

should be marked as

"Mary Witkowski Be-

The next semester for

the Christian Women's

Job Corps will be begin-

ning in January. Appli-

cations are being taken

at this point and an in-

terview process will be

conducted to determine

those qualified for the

kept secret, but the min-

"This has been a well

program.

Get A Healthy

Start To Your

New Year!

nevolence Fund."

this time."

trolled substance (thirddegree felony).

- Victor Antonio Coca, 20, of 3724 N. Texas in Odessa, evading arrest (state jail felony).
- Ricky Mendoza Rodriguez, 26, of 1013 N. Whitaker in Midland, evading arrest (state jail felony).
- Shawna Dawn Grayson, 40, of 303 E. Sixth St., theft (state jail felo-
- · Kody Chance Jackson, 26, of 3217 Fenn, possession of a controlled substance (state iail felony).
- Crystal Clear Lee, 28, of 905 N. Gregg St., driving while intoxicated with a child passenger (state jail felony).
 - Joseph Alton Murley,

Spring Creek Fellow-

ship at 714-4584. Also to

find out more about how

to help the project for

Mary Witkowski, call

Looney at 432-935-3036

or the Spring Creek Fel-

lowship office.

nev said.

32, of 1405 Tucson, possession of a controlled substance (third-degree felony).

- Stacy Lynn Pendleton, 36, of 1800 S. Lancaster, failure to register as a sex offender (two counts, both sec-
- ond-degree felonies). • Byron Tyron Richard, 25, currently being held at the county jail, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (second-degree felony).
- Kathy Ann Sigmon, 45, of 710 Lorilla, debit card abuse (state jail felony).
- Christopher Bennett Wooten, 51, of 301 State St., driving while intox-

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Paul Lindell, 62, died Wednesday. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Church of God.

Robert "Shina" Ruiz, 63, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Doris Lewis, 62, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

istry is growing," Loo-For those wanting to find out more information about the job corps or to volunteer, call

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com



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The Downtown Revitalization Association of Big Spring would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who helped make our 1st Annual Christmas on Main Street a HUGE success!!!

Barbara & Delbert Donelson Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Big Spring Herald Big Spring High School Art Department Boosie Weaver C.D.B. Photography Christy's Hair Studio & Spa City of Big Spring

East Side Baptist Church

Higginbotham-Bartlett

Gary Donelson

Alan Johnson

Holy Trinity **Howard County** Jimmy Miller Josh Hamby JR's Upholstery **KBYG** Ken McIntosh **M&M** Contractors Phillip Burchett Porter Henderson Terry & Emma Jenkins Walmart Western Bank

Citizens of Big Spring and Surrounding areas who donated decorations

and their families

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<u>Thank You</u> City of Coahoma, Midway Baptist Church,

Presbyterian Church, Coahoma, T&G Construction Of Elbow, Sooner Pipe Of Midland, Western Bank, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Walk Construction, Crossroad Youth Football Association, Raiders Coaches and Players, John Crane Production, Sid Richardson Carbon Co., Comet Cleaners, Chicano Golf Association, Alsa Car Club,

Martinez Backhoe Construction, Dale Coates Air & Heating, Mr. Sullivan and all Volunteer Firefighters, Big Spring Fire Department, Coahoma Volunteer Fire Department, Kaleb Hill, Adrian Calvio, Mark McKinney.

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by our family.

A special thanks to

Rev. Tom Koger, Rev. Jim Binnix, First Baptist Church, Cheryl Tucker, and Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Thank You And God Bless You The Family of Petra and Jacob Arguello

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DITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Thomas Jenkins

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff Publisher

Steve Reagan Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno Staff Writer

Staff Writer

Your Views

Research on gasoline

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently there was an article from one of you reporters, Thomas Jenkins bashing the greedy Oil Companies for the price of a gallon of gasoline. After reading this article I felt compelled to send this letter for publication.

First and foremost, I am an employee of a Major Oil company and have been going on 35 yrs. My Father & Father in Law worked in the oil fields of North Texas for independent oil operators all of their adult lifes and retired from them. My Grandfather retired from Shell Oil in 1959 in the panhandle of Oklahoma, so as you can see OIL has fed my family and paid my taxes for about 80+ yrs.

It is not the Oil Companies that set the price for a gallon of gas, actually they only make pennies on the gallon. Just to prove my point, driving home and through Big Spring Friday night, 12/2/2011, I found it amusing that Stripes and Kates Fina on the interstate priced their gas a full \$.05 a gallon below Parks Chevon and the Shell station on 4th street.

Now if an oil company was setting the price per gallon, wouldn't they be the same, for the same profit margin. Interesting?

So to inform Mr. Jenkins his article was completely wrong, I suggest that he do his homework before sending articles out to print. For Mr. Jenkins and the public here is a website the helps us understand the price of a gallon of gas, www.thepriceoffuel.

Oil is a driving force for West Texas and our economy as well as right here at home in Big Spring. Just wanted to set a few things straight and help educate the public on the price of a gallon of gas..

CHARLES SMITH BIG SPRING

Setting the record straight

I recently acquired the final figures from City Hall, on the financial fact sheet on the famed "Wa-

Well you might be surprised that the final cost for the water park was \$3,590,980.86 and not \$4,000,000 nor was it \$6,000,000 or anywhere in between, as some had you believe prior to the last elections.

The biggest surprise came in net profit for the Water Park; it actually made a profit of \$105,878.70 in the few months it was in operation. I hear the Mayor had trimmed off about \$50,000 in a desperate attempt to put his mark of dissent on this water park. I guess that accounts for what appears to be an undeveloped east end of the water park that is fenced off but has nothing but dirt on it. I want Big Spring to know people out of this area travelled to Big Spring just to enjoy the Water Park. This was great for our water park, not to mention the boost to our local economy, by visitors eating at one of our local restaurants, staying at a motel, doing some shopping or just buying gas.

Yes, this water park was "good" for Big Spring.

See **LETTERS**, Page 5A

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opin-

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205

 By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Steve Reagan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

- Sign your letter. · Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a
- street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity. We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter
- per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a tele-
- phone number or address will not be considered. Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Nobody ever asked, but his scarf was one to last the ages

o one ever asked the little old man about his scruffy scarf. Oh, it was noticed, usually by uppity passers-by. They'd

unquestioned homemade construction, guessing it may have been plucked by someone with limited vision from the 25-cent barrel at the thrift store.

Why, one

could reasonably

giggle about its



DR. Don NEWBURY

wonder, would anyone wear a frayed green and gold scarf, accented by dozens of worm appliques?

That's what the 95-year-old Baylor grad wore to the stadium Dec. 2 — the day Christmas came early for the Bears. Baylor's 48-24 trouncing of the University of Texas this year was more than a miracle — it was a mauling.

He would have happily explained the scarf's significance to anyone hustling from the stadium, but no one cared. More than 46,000 hurried to their cars — calling, texting, tweeting, etc., but not him. His mind was transfixed on the stadium scenes in1974 and 1978. In the former, the Bears overcame a 24-7 halftime score to overtake the Longhorns, 34-24.

It rained during that game, too, but fans didn't notice. Dozens camped out at the field overnight, and scoreboard lights stayed on. By comparison to the "miracle of '74," the 2011 game was a country licking, he thought.

He smiled at the recollection of miracle-working Coach Grant Teaff's 1978 pre-game

talk about the importance of preparation. Teaff spoke about successful fishermen using warm bait. That's when he popped a fishing worm into his mouth to "keep it warm." The sky-high players raced from the locker room, ready to take on Goliaths. Though their record was 2-8 at the time, they beat the Longhorns by 38-14. The "worm story" made the national press. It also impressed a woman to knit a "worm scarf" for her hubby.

The gentle rain continued, albeit unnoticed by the old guy. How he wished his bride of 55 years could have shared the moment. She's been gone a decade now and is keenly missed. A drill sergeant by necessity, she administered his diets and medications, something he never got the hang of. A couple of years after her death, the care center took up where she left off.

"Maybe Heaven has a glass bottom," he mumbled.

Hang the rain, he thought. To him, it was a balmy 72 degrees, with palm trees swaying under a cloudless Hawaiian sky, ukuleles strumming and sparkling blue waves bringing kisses to a pristine beach.

"I've rooted for the Bears through thin and thin," he thought, aware that "thick" seasons have been rare. Still, he was tickled that he'd been tucking away cash from his pension checks to buy the game ticket. It occurred to him that in the early years, tickets cost what sodas cost today. Way back then, he accom-

panied area church youth who were university end zone guests. Sometimes, they even got free hot dogs and sodas. "Baylor was eager to prop up attendance any way possible," he remembered, glancing toward

the south end zone.

A tarp remained in place, covering concrete stands where another 5,000 or so could have crowded in.

The old-timer remained in "what if" mode. Would end zone seating have meant a record crowd? Could seating there have been sold? Could they have invited youth or military groups?

He wondered if there were fears that the Texas Longhorn Network might set up shop, panning the end zone repeatedly if seats remained. An even wilder thought was what kind of stash the Baptists might be hiding under the tarp.

The old guy remembered the lean years, when TV cameras too often showed vacant stands. He claimed that at another old Southwest Conference school known for sparse crowds, they sold seats in alternating rows, creating "spreading room only."

He toyed with the idea of contacting Kenneth Starr, pointing to the Baylor president's "crackerjack status" on matters of investigation.

Maybe the former special prosecutor could shed light on the end zone cover-up, thought

The world tuned out, the little old man didn't hear the van honks. But, he felt the driver's hand on his shoulder, and he climbed aboard.

When he got back to his room, he crossed "decisive win over Texas" from his bucket list. Maybe he'd buy another bucket, he thought, not for kicking, but for making a new list.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/ comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

It is the season to make sure and pay your child support

¶he holidays are upon us and for some, this means family traditions, meals with extended family and new toys. For others, it can mean disappointment and going

without. By paying your child support and being there for your children, you can help ensure the holidays are a memorable and joyful time of year. Child support





enables parents to put a roof over their children's heads, clothes on their backs and food on the table. During the holidays, these challenges are compounded as parents also try to provide gifts, a special meal or a trip to grandma and grandpa's house. That is why we are giving parents this special reminder to pay their child support.

The Attorney General's Child Support Division extends a heartfelt thank you to those parents who regularly pay their child support in full and on time. In the fiscal year that ended August 31, parents paid more than \$3.196 billion in child support, and since Attorney General Abbott took office in December 2002, more than \$21 billion in child support has been collected.

Sometimes circumstances arise, such as losing a job, that make it difficult to meet one's child support obligation. For parents who are in a situation like this, contact the Child Support Division so we can work together to determine a course of action.

In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, the Child Support Division began the NCP Choices project that

allows local judges to order unemployed and underemployed parents who are behind on their payments to receive employment services in order to help avoid jail time. The project operates in 18 locations across the state. Since 2005, NCP Choices has collected more than \$45 million from parents who were neither working nor paying child support when ordered into the program.

The Attorney General's Office strives to be accessible to all of its customers, who often need up-to-date information about their child support case. The Child Support Division provides 24-hour access to parents who are seeking information about their child support case. The agency's toll-free automated phone line is (800) 252-8014. Child Support Interactive, accessed from the main Attorney General website at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov, gives visitors another avenue for obtaining general information about the child support program and applying for services.

Ultimately, what children need most is to know their parents care about them. The Office of the Attorney General helps parents who are having trouble getting access to their children. We awarded a grant to Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, which operates a statewide Access and Visitation Hotline. The hotline is staffed by attorneys who provide legal information and assistance about child custody, along with information about visitation, paternity and child support matters. The hotline's toll-free number, (866) 292-4636, is available Monday through Friday from 1 to 7 p.m.

Kids will forever remember what happens during this holiday season. Please help make those memories good ones by

being there for them and pay-

ing your child support. Your

faithfulness will reap great rewards as you help your children remember the holidays as a time of provision rather than hardship.

The Office of the Attorney General wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

POINTS TO REMEMBER Child Support and the Holidays

Parents should make a special effort to pay their child support during the holidays

- Because family expenses usually increase during the holidays.
- · To show their children they
- are loved. Because it is their legal duty to do so.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

- Helps establish a child's paternity.
- Establishes and enforces child support orders. Reviews and adjusts child support payments.
- Collects and distributes payments.
- Partners with other agencies to help parents find jobs to meet their child support obligations.
- Works with groups that facilitate parental access and visitation.
- Encourages parental involvement in their children's

APPLY FOR CHILD SUP-PORT SERVICES BY: Visiting Child Support In-

teractive on the main Attorney General website at www.texasattorneygeneral.

Calling the 24-hour voice re-

sponse system at (800) 252-8014 *Greg Abbott is the Attorney*

General of Texas. More information can be found by visiting www.TexasAttorneyGeneral. gov.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

One more thing, in my opinion, if you were one of the opponents of the water park you should stick to your guns, not go and enjoy it nor allow your family to join in the fun either. But some of you opponents were seen at the water park enjoying yourselves as if you had supported it, this is called being hypocritical.

Now all would be forgiven if someone would just say "I was wrong" but alas, it will probably never happen.

TONY MARQUEZ **BIG SPRING**

Tricky business

TO THE EDITOR:

What a surprise it was to learn that First Christian Church was holding its final board meeting in a recent Big Spring Herald weekend edition. It gave many of us a good chuckle. Headlines are a tricky business.

Not only are we not closing our doors, but actually we have enjoyed one of our best year's in my tenure as FCC's minister. We were honored and blessed to be a part of thriving community events like Empty Bowls, Christmas For Our Troops and the Community Thanksgiving Service at First Presbyterian. This year's Trunk or Treat event was the largest

yet for us. We continue our commitment to feed the hungry in Big Spring through Isaiah 58; and we celebrate the successful ecumenical Lenten luncheon series and Vacation Bible School days we sponsored with other churches. And finally, we enhanced our ministry with the addition of a wonderful playground area, which we have opened to the community for birthday events.

I have discovered that one of the hardest things for me in this setting is to watch some of our long time, faithful members move away. Just this fall, we lost Fran Green, Jo Nell Griffin and Fay Turner, all single, older women who have been a part of Big Spring forever, but have now moved to other parts of Texas to live with family.

Fay Turner especially will be missed not only by us, but also by the VA Hospital and the State Hospital, where she made and delivered desserts on a monthly basis for years.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to these wonderful women, but life goes on for us. Unlike the headline implied, we are not near to closing our doors. I don't even worry about that. Ultimately, the number of days in the life of First Christian Church is in God's hands; but the quality of our days, that is in ours. There is still much that can be done to make Big Spring a better community for every-

May the Lord's richest blessings be yours in 2012.

> GRATEFULLY, THE REV. KEN McIntosh BIG SPRING

Ports-to-Plains

TO THE EDITOR:

The Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011, issue of the Big Spring Herald had an article concerning the proposed Ports-To-Plains highway project. The article was interesting, but lacking some information the citizens should know. It also was somewhat misleading in another area.

No mention was made of the one citizen of Big Spring who is most responsible for the progression of this project - Bill Crooker. Bill has been a member of the Ports-To-Plains Alliance since its inception.

He has been very active in all meetings of the group and has made trips to Washington, D.C. to further interest in its development. Bill was recently honored in San Angelo by the members of the Alliance for his participation and dedication to the project.

The area that seems to be misleading concerns the references and seeming importance placed on statements by Gloria McDonald. Her quotes tend to give her a position of importance in the development of the highway. She has attended meetings of the Alliance group, although uninvited, under the guise that she is the Big Spring repre-

To my knowledge she has never been recognized by the Alliance as holding that position. She seems to be

a "Wanna-be." Big Spring and the entire area impacted by the Ports-To-Plains project owe a great deal of gratitude to Bill Crooker.

> ARDIS McCasland Jr. BIG SPRING

CFOT

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone that helped make this year's Christmas For Our Troops program a huge success. The outpouring of donations and volunteers was incredible. With the help of our many volunteers; we gathered, sorted, counted and packed boxes for 502 of our deployed military.

I'm so proud to be from an area that gives back. Thank you Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Gail, Garden City and everywhere in between for your help. God bless you all and have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family knowing that you have helped make the Christmas season a little brighter for 502 of our men and women in uniform.

SINCERELY Debbie Burrow BIG SPRING

St. Vincent de Paul receives donation from SWCID clubs

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul received a food donation Thursday

Members of the South-West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Hispanic Student Association, Spirit of Hope and Student Government Association, along with Purple and ZVRS, held a food drive last Friday in order to collect food to benefit St. Vincent de

"The Salvation Army receives help already and we wanted to be able to give to someone else who needs it," Priscilla Cervantes, SWCID student and member of Hispanic Student Association, said.

The group presented St. Vincent de Paul with a donation of 325 cans.

"This was a way for us to give back to the community," advisor Steve Meyer said. "We hope



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

St. Vincent de Paul received a donation of 325 cans from students at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf and members of the Hispanic Student Association, Student Government Association, Purple and ZVRS.

to make this a tradition from now on."

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.

www.bigspringherald.com

Something special's happening in the Circle.

April 2009 Activities

April 27 – Games, 1-4 p.m.

April 28 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m. Supper Club, "Cowboy's", 5:30 p.m.

April 29 – Senior Appreciation Day, 11:30 a.m. "Pork Loin" Movie, 1:00 p.m. "A Good Year"

April 30 – Mall Walking, 8 a.m.

Just Peachy Café "Coffee Club," 10 a.m. \$3.50 Thursdays @ Yellow Rose Cafe "Chicken"

Senior Circle's 10th Anniversary Party Trinity Baptist Church Annex 6-8:00 p.m. - RSVP 268-4721

Call Anita Cline today at 268-4721 to find out what the Circle is all about.





Age gracefully, live well and have some fun.

Join the Circle.

Limited Time Membership Special

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, we are rolling back the cost of Senior Circle membership to the 1999 price ~ one year for only \$10 - a \$5 savings!

Join or renew today!

Join us for our CHRISTMAS Per HOUSE Friday, December 16, 2011 9:00am - 3:00pm 1411 Gregg Street \bigcirc **AmericanStateBank**

 $432-267-5564 \star asbonline.com$

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News Briefs

With Britain a holdout, European nations see a path out of debt crisis

BRUSSELS (AP) — Working almost to exhaustion and persuading countries one by one, European leaders agreed Friday to redefine their continent hoping that by joining their fiscal fortunes they might stop a crippling debt crisis, save the euro currency and prevent worldwide economic chaos. Only one country said no: Britain. It will risk isolation while the rest of the continent plots its

The coalition came together in a marathon nego-

tiating session among the 27 European Union heads of government — hard bargaining that began with dinner Thursday evening and ended after 4 a.m., when red-eyed officials appeared before weary journalists to explain their proposed treaty. It was a major step forward in the long, postwar

march toward European integration. It was two decades ago, on Dec. 9 and 10, 1991, that European negotiators drafted a treaty in Maastricht, Netherlands, to unite their politics, create a central bank and, one day, invent a common curren-

Friday's agreement -23 countries are in favor and three more say they are open to the idea would force countries to submit their budgets for central review and limit the deficits they can run.

Police identify Va. Tech gunman as a 22-year-old student at nearby Radford Univ.

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A dean's list student who killed a Virginia Tech police officer had no ties to the university and did not know the patrolman, authorities said Friday without offering a motive for a crime spree that spanned two days and ended in suicide. Ross Truett Ashley, 22, first drew authorities'

attention when he robbed his landlord's office at gunpoint Wednesday. He took the keys to a Mercedes-Benz sport utility vehicle later found in Blacksburg, home to Virginia Tech, about 10 miles Ashley, a part-time business student at Radford

University, was described by those who knew him as a typical college student, though he could be quiet and standoffish. He liked to run down the hallways and recently shaved his head, a neighbor

Police said he walked up to officer Deriek W. Crouse on Thursday and shot him to death as the patrolman sat in his unmarked cruiser in the midst of a traffic stop. Ashley was not involved in the stop and did not know the driver, police said.

Ashley then took off for the campus greenhouses, ditching his pullover, wool cap and backpack as police sent out a campus-wide alert that a gunman

BARGAIN MART

Discount Foods

was on the loose, terrorizing students on a campus still coping with the nation's worst mass slaying in recent memory.

In Gingrich's rise, GOP voters seem to value ideas above fidelity, defiance over consistency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newt Gingrich's rapid rise in presidential polls has left veteran Republicans scratching their heads, and not just because he vaulted from far back to lead Mitt Romney in several key states.

They're trying to figure out why the former House speaker is supported by GOP voters who think he's not particularly honest and doesn't share their values. They're puzzled that Iowa evangelical Christians are flocking to a man who was unfaithful to two wives, paid \$300,000 in House ethics fines and converted to Roman Catholicism. They're surprised that Republican voters say

they value Gingrich's experience far more than that of his rivals. Gingrich's record of earning millions of dollars in the government influence business, after 20 years in Congress, seems to upend the notion that this election cycle is driven by tea partyers' hostility to Washington insiders. "I can't decipher what's going on," said Rep. Allen

West, R-Fla., one the tea party's best-known firstterm lawmakers. "I've had a little trouble figuring it out, too," said

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, one of Congress' most conservative members.

4 NRC members say they have 'grave concerns' about Chairman Jaczko

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four Nuclear Regulatory commissioners from both parties say they have "grave concerns" about the panel's chairman, charging that the actions of Gregory Jaczko are "causing serious damage" to the commission and creating a "chilled work environment at the NRC." In a letter to the White House, the commissioners

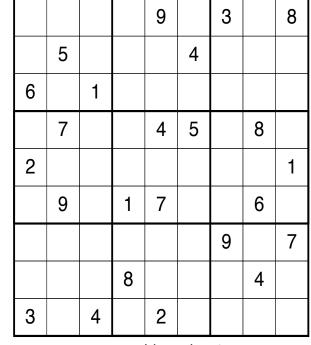
say Jaczko's bullying style could adversely affect the agency's mission to protect health and safety at the nation's 104 commercial nuclear reactors. The two-page letter, signed by four of Jaczko's

colleagues on the five-member panel, stops short of calling for the chairman to resign. But it says he "intimidated and bullied" senior career staff, ordered staff to withhold information and ignored the will of the panel's majority. The letter was signed by Democrats William Magwood and George Apostolakis, as well as Republicans Kristine Svinicki and William Ostendorff. Jaczko, in a detailed response also sent to the

White House, said problems at the agency were not his fault but instead stem from "lack of understanding" on the part of the other four commissioners.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or





www.ahi-texas.com

Copies of the letters were obtained by The Associated Press.

Fire at hospital in India kills at least 89 as staff flees, leaving patients behind KOLKATA, India (AP) — Fleeing medical staff

abandoned patients to a fire that killed 89 people Friday as black smoke poured through the sevenstory hospital in this city in eastern India, officials said. Six administrators were arrested. Dwellers of a nearby slum who first noticed the smoke and fire rushed to the AMRI Hospital to raise the alarm, but security guards kept them

back, saying it was only a small blaze, witnesses It took firefighters in the city formerly known as Calcutta more than an hour to respond, said Pradeep Sarkar, a witness whose uncle was hospitalized but was among those safely evacuated from

helped with the rescue. Six hospital directors surrendered to police and were charged with culpable homicide, according to police who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

the private facility. Some of the slum dwellers

California prison psychologist charged with faking her own rape to trick husband into moving SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — She split her own

per and had her friend punch her in the face. Investigators say she even ripped open her blouse, then wet her pants to give the appearance she had been knocked unconscious. But it was all part of what authorities said Friday

lip with a pin, scraped her knuckles with sandpa-

was an elaborate hoax by the woman to convince her husband she was raped so they could move to a safer neighborhood. Charges filed by the Sacramento County district

attorney allege Laurie Ann Martinez, a prison psychologist, conspired with the friend to create the appearance that she was beaten, robbed and raped by a stranger in April in her Sacramento home. Martinez, her friend and two co-workers eventu-

ally told police the whole thing was a setup to convince Martinez's husband that they needed to move from a blighted, high-crime area three miles north of the state Capitol.

It didn't work. Instead, the couple filed for divorce six weeks after the April 10 incident, according to court records.

NASA OKs Feb. launch of 1st private cargo run to space station, historic flight by SpaceX

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A private California company will attempt the first-ever commercial cargo run to the International Space Station in February.

On Feb. 7, SpaceX will attempt another orbital flight from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This time, the unmanned Dragon capsule will fly to the space station and dock with a load of supplies.

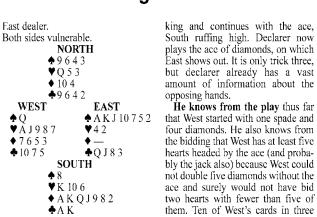
NASA stressed it is a target date.

"Pending all the final safety reviews and testing, SpaceX will send its Dragon spacecraft to rendezvous with the International Space Station in less than two months," said NASA's No. 2, deputy administrator Lori Garver.

"So it is the opening of that new commercial cargo delivery era."



By Steve Becker The Magic Number



The bidding:
South

Opening lead —

Dble

West

Dble

I have done a lot of bridge teach-

ing in my day, and I have always

been baffled by why so many players

have trouble making use of the number 13. Everyone knows that each

player is dealt 13 cards and each suit

has 13 cards, but far too many play-

ers don't utilize this bridge fact of

life as they should. If they would

simply invoke the magic number 13

more often, they'd find the play of

Take this deal where East over-

the cards much, much simpler.

queen of spades.

ace and surely would not have bid two hearts with fewer than five of them. Ten of West's cards in three suits are thus known, leaving him with at most three clubs. North South now tries to take advantage

of what he has learned. He realizes that if he simply draws trumps and plays a heart to the queen, he is likely to lose two heart tricks and go down one. To deal with this danger, he first cashes the A-K of clubs, leads a trump to the ten and ruffs a club. This eliminates the clubs from West's hand. South then draws West's two

remaining trumps before leading the king of hearts. West, who now has only hearts left, can do no better than take his acc and return a heart, allowing South to score his ten and make the contract

takes the queen of spades with the Tomorrow: Famous Hand. ©2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.



SWEET POTATOES

FRESH

News in brief

Wealthy Texas school districts sue over funding

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of about 120 propertywealthy Texas school districts sued the state Friday, alleging that its system of paying for public education is inadequate and unconstitutional.

Six school districts, ranging from Lewisville and Richardson in North Texas to Aransas County on the coast, are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The lawsuit is being handled by the Texas School Coalition, which is made up of school districts that give property tax money back to the state under the so-called Robin Hood school funding plan.

Sixty school districts, including Forsan Independent School District in Howard County, have joined the suit, which proclaims "the Texas school finance system has reached a crisis stage again."

The schools contend that because so many districts are taxing at the maximum allowable rate, the school property tax has effectively become a statewide property tax, which is unconstitutional in Texas.

The state is "co-opting the school districts' taxing authority, so it's become a de facto state property tax," said Mark Trachtenberg, one of the attorneys representing the school districts. He said about 20 percent of about 1,030 school districts in Texas are taxing at the maximum rate of \$1.17 per \$100 of property value. Many districts in the coalition can't tax above a rate of \$1.04, which requires voter approval. Trachtenberg said voters aren't likely to approve higher taxes when the revenue would go back to the state rather than being spent locally.

The schools also argue that the Legislature hasn't been putting enough money into the system to meet the constitutional mandate for an "adequate" education.

"They're failing to provide the resources to provide an adequate education under the state's own standards," attorney John Turner said.

High court halts new Texas electoral maps

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas' March primary will likely be delayed after the Supreme Court on Friday blocked the use of state legislative and congressional district maps that were drawn by federal

The court issued a brief order late Friday that applies to electoral maps drawn by federal judges in San Antonio for the Texas Legislature and Congress that would have ensured minorities made up the majority in three additional Texas congressional districts. The justices said they will hear arguments on Jan. 9.

The judges issued the new maps for the 2012 election in Texas after a lawsuit was filed in San Antonio over redistricting maps drawn by the GOP-led Legislature. The maps were to remain in place until the lawsuit was resolved.

The Supreme Court's order brings to a halt filing for legislative and congressional primary elections that began Nov. 28. The primaries had been scheduled to take place in March, but the Supreme Court's decision means those elections almost certainly will be delayed, possibly until May.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, whose office had appealed the case to the Supreme Court, said the decision was an important step in his office's efforts to protect the integrity of the state's elections by ensuring they are conducted based on legally constructed redistricting maps. Abbott also noted the delays the court's decision could cause.

"We understand the need for speed for Texas voters as well as those who wish to run for office and will work to resolve this matter as quickly as possible," Abbott said in a statement.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said the court's decision shows the federal judges in San Antonio "overreached and displayed judicial activism inconsistent with federal law and contrary to the intent of the Legislature."

Perry flubs name, number of Supreme Court justices

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Friday there are eight Supreme Court justices, not nine, and couldn't remember Justice Sonia Sotomayor's name in an editorial board meeting with The Des Moines Register newspaper.

Perry's repeated stumbles are keeping him from steadying his Republican presidential campaign with less than a month remaining before the leadoff caucuses in Iowa.

On Friday, Perry criticized Obama for his two Supreme Court nominees. "When you see his appointment of two, from my perspective, inarguably activist judges, whether it was ." he said, trailing

He paused for six seconds. "Not Montemayor," he

"Sotomayor," a member of the editorial board

"Sotomayor, Sotomayor," Perry said.

He went on to denounce "eight unelected and, frankly, unaccountable judges" in a discussion of prayer in schools. But nine justices sit on the Supreme Court; they are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Texas Mexican Mafia members sentenced

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge has sentenced 17 members and associates of the Texas Mexican Mafia on drug charges.

The Austin American-Statesman reports (http:// bit.ly/rvI9ed) that all except one of those sentenced in Austin on Friday received prison terms longer One gang member, Ruben Flores, received a 30-

year prison term and 10 others got sentences of more than 20 years.

In July, a federal grand jury indicted 18 members of the gang on heroin and cocaine conspiracy charges. The charges against one defendant were dismissed. The rest pleaded guilty.

Another pleads guilty in alleged Texas sex assault

LIBERTY (AP) — A fourth juvenile boy who is part of a group of 20 males accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting an 11-year-old Southeast Texas girl has pleaded guilty in the case.

The Houston Chronicle reports (http://bit.ly/ vDQygl) the 16-year-old boy pleaded guilty during a court hearing Friday in Liberty to a charge of felony aggravated sexual assault of a child.

The boy, whose name is not being released, joins three other juveniles who have also pleaded guilty.

Earlier this week, 21-year-old Isaiah Ross became the first of 14 adults charged in the case to plead

Man sentenced for illegal gun buys

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge has sentenced a South Texas man to seven years in prison for taking part in a scheme to illegally buy fire-

Santiago Munoz was sentenced during a court hearing Friday in San Antonio after he had previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to make a false statement in a federal firearms record and two counts of providing a firearm to a prohib-

Prosecutors say Munoz, from Rio Grande City, admitted that from August 2006 until February 2007, he conspired with others to fraudulently purchase about 220 firearms at gun shows in San Antonio and Austin.

Investigators say the 50-year-old was a straw purchaser, a person who buys guns for other individu-

Jury acquits ex-cop on sex assault charge

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — \bar{A} West Texas jury has acquitted a former El Paso police officer of sexually assaulting a woman while on duty. The El Paso Times reports jurors found Zake

Rivera not guilty on Friday after deliberating for about seven hours over a two-day period. The 29-year-old ex-officer was arrested Feb. 24 after a woman complained he forced her to perform a

sex act on him when he answered a family disturbance call in January. Rivera's attorneys contended the act was consen-

sual, while prosecutors argued he exploited a mentally unstable woman who feared going to jail.

Arsonist sentenced for Houston blaze

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has sentenced a Houston man who had been suspected of setting a series of fires to 40 years in state prison for one of the blaz-

John Leonard Morin was convicted and sentenced on a felony arson charge after a brief trial

Houston Fire Department arson investigators say the 48-year-old was identified as a suspect in a series of fires that happened in southwest Houston from 2007 until 2009. Ultimately, investigators were able to link Morin to a fire that occurred in October

'Dallas' returns to city it made famous

DALLAS (AP) — J.R. Ewing has returned to Dal-

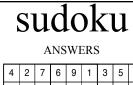
With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series "Dallas," which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as J.R.'s brother Bobby and Linda Gray as J.R.'s ex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive skyline rising from

"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson. "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of J.R. and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012.

Call 263-7331 to subscribe



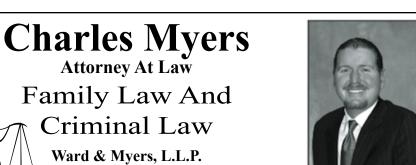
Ι.									
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	5	8	2	4	1	6	9	3	7
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www.sudoku-puzzles.net									







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Burn ban extension on county agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS

Howard County commissioners will meet to discuss a number of issues Monday morning, including an extension of the existing burn ban, as well as a ban on rockets and other finned fireworks this holiday season.

Howard County Judge Mark Barr said he plans to propose an extension to the existing burn ban and a ban on finned fireworks and rockets going into the Christmas and New Year holidays during the commissioners' Monday meeting in hopes of staving off wildfires in the coming months, a concern he and other West Texas officials are taking very seriously going into the mid-to-late winter season.

"The ban will effect rocket-type fireworks with fins. It's just so dry out there and there's so much fuel, we're worried it could pose a serious danger," Barr said. "Honestly, I expect both measures — the continuation of the burn ban and the ban on the fireworks — to pass easily. It's no secret how dangerous conditions are right now, and with no real relief in sight, they are only going to get worse as the winter months continue on."

Barr said the county must have the fireworks ban in place no later than Thursday to effect the Christmas and New Year sales seasons.

While the recent snowfall may seem like the perfect deterrent for wildfires, Tommy Sullivan, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department chief, said the break from the dry weather is a brief reprieve from the fire danger.

"Any moisture is welcome at this point," he said with a laugh. "Unfortunately, it's going to kill off what was left of the green underbrush, so what we'll have in a few days when all of that moisture is gone is more dead brush,

even dryer, more flammable fuel. The snow is great while it's still on the ground. When it's gone, however, it's not much help, so we're going to be right back where we started, and that's looking at some really dangerous conditions.

"The rockets pose the highest level of danger when it comes to starting a grass fire or wildfire. However, don't be fooled into thinking everything else is OK. Any kind of firework that produces heat or sparks can start a fire, even firecrackers and other items that don't normally take flight. The best way to avoid a problem is to just avoid shooting fireworks altogether."

Barr said a complete ban of fireworks sales during the holiday season would require support from the Texas Governor's office, something he isn't expecting at this point.

"I can place a ban on all fireworks for a 60-hour period, but 60 hours won't do much good," Barr said. "It takes the governor to sign a decree to make the ban last long enough to get us through the holiday, and right now I'm not expecting that to happen."

An extension of the burn ban would be in effect for another 90 days, according to Barr, who fully expects to revisit the matter three months from now and likely approve another extension of the mea-

"Every meteorologist I've talked to, from the state level all the way down, has said there's really no relief in sight," Barr said. "We'll continue to approve these burn bans as long as they are needed to protect Howard County. We understand they can be an inconvenience to the citizens, but safety has to come first, and that's what we will do."

Also during Monday's meeting, the court is expected to discuss:

 Consideration and possible approval of Eddy Jameson, county road and bridge administrator, overseeing fill material project at Joint Law Enforcement Center per recommendation of project architect, Jeff Heffelfinger.

 Discuss and possible approval of construction services material testing and inspection at Joint Law Enforcement Center per recommendation of Heffelfinger.

 Inter-local agreements with city of Big Spring regarding Big Spring State Park, jail services amendment and ambulance service.

· Discuss possible lease of county owned property.

The meeting gets under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact the county judge's office at 264-2202.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

State fair's Big Tex began life as Santa Claus

By EMILY GUEVARA

Tyler Morning Telegraph TYLER — Before Big Tex greeted visitors with his trademark "Howdy Folks" a more appropriate greeting might have been "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

The larger-than-life cowboy that has been a staple at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas for almost 60 years got his start in Kerens, about 20 miles west of Athens. And he wasn't a cowboy. He was then touted as the world's largest Santa Claus and spent two Christmases calling that city's Colket Avenue home.

In 1949, the late Howell Brister, then Chamber of Commerce manager, proposed creating a giant Santa Claus as a way to boost the local economy, according to a 1978 article in the Corsicana Daily Sun.

According to the story. he mulled over the idea for two years before he felt confident that the town would endorse the proposal.

So on Nov. 10, 1949, at a chamber meeting, he presented plans for a 50-foot Santa telling his peers the details.

He already had measured local men for the dimensions, determined where they could buy the materials, and obtained some cost estimates.

All those at the meeting except for one man. Brister's brother-in-law, supported the project, and he came around in the end - so the community banded together to make themselves a larger than life St. Nick.

Brister already had measured two men to create the dimensions for the figure.

The "models," both

267-8288

more than 6 feet tall, Ottis Franklin Spurlock, a 270-pound grocer, and Hardy Mayo, who had the height and the hand size, but apparently not the stomach, according to a 1990 article in the Dallas Times Herald.

After measuring the men, Brister multiplied their dimensions by seven to come up with measurements for Santa, the Daily Sun reported.

He purchased tubing pipe to make the skeleton framework for \$68 and bought 168 yards of red oilcloth for the suit.

Kerens welding school students welded the framework and vocational agriculture students added the chicken wire to make Santa's body, according to the Daily Sun.

dress factory stayed after work to cut and sew the suit and Baylor University art students made the papier-mâché Santa face.

Unraveled hemp rope cut 12 inches long served as Santa's beard. And a local cement worker fashioned some boots out of concrete over wire frames and painted them black, according to one article.

After two weeks of work, the town had created a suitable Santa and, with the help of three trucks, lifted him into place on the city's main street.

They put him into place about midnight with the idea that the giant Santa would surprise motorists driving along Texas Highway 31 in the morning.

And he surely did, but the Kerens residents were surprised as well. Despite the fact Brister hadn't publicized the city's efforts, a picture of Santa appeared on the front page of the Dallas Morning News that day, according to the Daily

a passing motorist or train engineer tipped off the paper, according to the report. But no matter, Kerens got results. The chamber phone rang off the hook and

His guess was that

people from beyond Navarro County came to visit, the Daily Sun re-Newspapers around

the country and world ran photos of the supposed world's largest Santa Claus. But that claim would

Women at the Kerens be short-lived. An Illinois town contended that it had created a taller Santa Claus, according to the Daily Sun.

Still, Kerens residents were pleased with their creation. Cotton Belt train conductors did their part by promoting the Santa to passengers before they came into

"They would stop the train where passengers in two or three coaches could look straight down Colket Street toward Santa, then move the train up a little so another batch of passengers could see," Brister told the Daily Sun.

Santa served the town for the Christmases of 1949 and 1950. The second year, the town had a chimney built around him. But that year would be his last in Kerens.

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Robert Griffin at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

> Page 9A Sunday, December 11, 2011

Forsan claims tourney title

By ROBERT GRIFFIN

Sports Editor

The Forsan Buffaloes were in championship form this weekend, defeating Lorenzo in a decisive fashion before outlasting a tough Seminole JV squad to take

down their tournament

and bring the hardware

back to Forsan.

In the 68-27 blowout of Lorenzo, Trevor Burchett lit up the scoreboard, scoring 15 points. He was followed by a pair of snipers in the form of Kade Fannin and Dillon Bagnall, as each of the two players netted nine points in the win.

But no game would be complete without someone crashing the boards and making his presence known. The Buffaloes looked to Aric Hernandez for that role in this one. Hernandez led both teams with nine big rebounds.

In the championship game, Forsan found

themselves in a real fight with Seminole's tough JV team, though the Buffaloes led the entire game. Outscoring the youngsters 33-25 in the first half, Forsan relied on their defense to make the lead stand in the third and fourth quarters. The Buffaloes outscored Seminole 17-15 in the third and 14-11 in the final frame to snag the hardware.

Kade Fannin was an absolute force in the game, scoring 18 points and grabbing 13 rebounds for Forsan. Aric Hernandez made his presence felt as well as he found the net for 17 points, while securing seven boards.

The two game leaders were followed closely by Matthew Mims.

The young speedster ran up and down the courts to hit double digits on the stat sheet with 12 points in the win for Forsan.

Briefs

Bowl-A-Rama Christmas

tournament

Bowl-A-Rama of Big Spring will host their second annual Christmas tournament Thursday at 7 p.m.

Bowlers must be checked in by 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$25 if paid by Tuesday and \$30 afterward. The tournament is open to all bowlers and the handicap is 100 percent of 230.

Eight places will be paid, including a \$150 first place prize and \$100 for second. For more information, visit the website at: www.bowlarama.com.

Area basketball tournament results

Boys

Garden City 44 Abilene Wylie JV 42 Garden City (6-5) — Corbin Davis 18, Sam Miller 9, Michael Lopez 4, Dylan Koenning 3, Blayne Batla 2, Juan Bustos 2, Reggie Halfmann 2, Payton Schaefer 2, Austin Odom 2

Wylie JV 6 16 9 11 -42Garden City 20 10 4 10 -44

Stanton Hooptown Tournament

SANDS 50 WALL 49 Sands 10 16 14 20 -50Wall 15 8 10 16 — 49 Sands — Thomasson 14, Ybarra 10, Zank

SANDS 60 MERKEL 45 Sands 13 18 9 20 -60Merkel 7 12 5 21 — 45 Sands — Zant 14, Thomasson 13

TAHOKA 66 COAHOMA 46 Coahoma 14 9 12 11 -46Tahoka 20 15 18 13 — 66 Coahoma — Ruiz 13, Acevedo 7, Reid 7

COAHOMA 64 MIDLAND JV 47 Coahoma 15 17 14 18 -64Midland JV 14 8 9 16 -47

GRADY 81 MENARD 41 Grady — Zeke Clay 12, Branson Richards

17, Mike Jimenez 9, Taylor Polson 18, Alex Flores 9, Uziel San Juan 6, Ivan San Juan 2, E.J. Rodriguez 8 MENARD 13 11 5 12 -41

GRADY 25 27 20 9 -81

RANKIN 40 GRADY 39

Grady (9-1) — Clay 12, Richards 10, Jimenez 4, Polson 9, U. San Juan 2, Rodriguez

RANKIN 7 12 16 5 -40GRADY 11 9 9 10 — 39

STANTON 39 MIDLAND CLASSICAL 38 MCA 9 11 5 13 -38Stanton 10 13 5 11 -39

O.W. Follis Tournament Odessa Permian 54 Big Spring 49

Big Spring 56 Lamesa JV 33

Girls Tahoka 58

Stanton JV 21 Stanton 63

Midland Classical 51 Stanton 33

Greenwood JV23

Sweetwater 52

Stanton JV20 Midland Classical 51

Stanton 33 Stanton — Selah Ramsey 16, Jennifer Beasley 6, Eva Classen 2, Kendra Graham 7.

Big Ben still ticking in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jerricho Cotchery watched Ben Roethlisberger limp into the locker room in the middle of the second quarter on Thursday night against Cleveland, the Pittsburgh quarterback's left foot swollen and his face awash in a painful grimace and figured Roethlisberger was done.

Forgive the veteran wide receiver for his naivete, he's new here.

A half hour after Roethlisberger's night if not his season — seemed in jeopardy, the two-time Super Bowl winner was getting taped up to go back in.

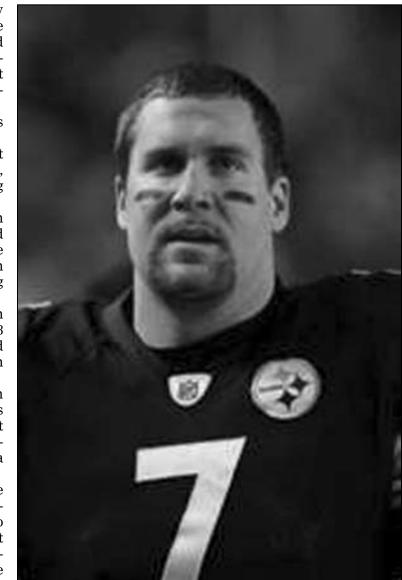
"I'm like, 'Wow, this is what I've been watching on TV from the other team," said Cotchery, who spent seven seasons with the New York Jets before joining the Steelers in August. "It's amazing to see, the guy laying it on the line for his teammates."

Hobbling to the huddle, wincing with each step, Roethlisberger returned to pass for 178 yards in the second half, including a 79-yard touchdown strike to Antonio Brown with 2:52 remaining that sealed a 14-3 victory.

Even for a player who prides himself on playing through pain — Roethlisberger's already fought through a sprained left foot and fractured right thumb this season without missing a meaningful snap — this was a

His injured foot in a walking boot as he talked to reporters afterward, Roethlisberger said he felt like his ankle was "going to explode." Even if it did, he joked, he'd just ask injured backup quarterback Byron Leftwich for advice on how to get the offensive linemen to carry him downfield as Leftwich famously did during his college days at

See BIG BEN, Page 10A



Ben Roethlisberger responded to questions recently about his health and the chances of his playing this week.

Amnesty clause has the NBA trading at extremely fast rate

By JIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer The NBA's amnesty era is under way.

Taking advantage of the league's new get-outof-a-contract card, the Orlando Magic waived Gilbert Arenas and the \$62 million he was owed over the next three seasons as one of the very first moves after the lockthe New York Knicks were preparing to use the clause on Chauncey Billups — a precursor to adding Tyson Chandler as a free agent from the champion Dallas Maver-

There was Dwight Howard trade talk, widespread reaction over the NBA's decision to reject a proposed trade of Chris

out formally ended, and Paul to the Los Angeles Lakers, and dozens of moves in short order as teams worked briskly to start filling their rosters for a rapidly approaching season.

> And finally, rookies could become, well, rookies. Kyrie Irving, the No. 1 pick this year, signed with the Cleveland Cavaliers, as did No. 4 pick Tristan Thompson. In

Minnesota, No. 2 pick Derrick Williams practiced with the expectation his deal would be signed no later than Saturday, and Utah signed, among others, No. 3 pick

Enes Kanter. A number of teams worked out with very small groups, barely enough to play even

See **NBA**, Page 10A

Lady Buffs claim third in tournament

By ROBERT GRIFFIN

Sports Editor

The Lady Buffs went 1-1 (2-1 overall) Friday to take third place in tournament play. The girls fell to Lubbock Christian 52-47, before taking a decisive 35-20 trophygrabbing win over Seminole's JV

Maria Ortiz led Forsan with 13 points in the loss against Lubbock Christian in a game where Forsan led 26-16 at the half, outscoring the opposition 11-8 and 15-8 in the first two quarters, respectively.

"We played phenomenal defense in the first half," Head Coach Rob-

ert Hillger said. But the lead would not hold, as Lubbock's seniors took over the game in the second half outscor-

ing the Lady Buffs 20-10 in the

third period to tie the game and

make for a wild final frame. In the end, they managed to hold Forsan to 11 points in the fourth, scoring 16 points of their own for the win.

Behind Ortiz, Raegan Haggard scored 11 points for the Lady Buffs and grabbed five rebounds. Cheyenne Galloway had nine points, while securing a team-high seven

Ali Knight for the bucket for six points and snagged five boards, while Brittney Hergert scored four points with two rebounds. san, scoring two points each.

Jahnia Willard and Kayla Tilley rounded out the stat sheet for For-In their second game in the same day, the Lady Buffs turned Galloway loose against Seminole JV and she delivered, scoring a

game-high nine points and lead-

ing everyone on the floor with

eight rebounds.

Though the Lady Buffs got off to a slow start, falling behind 8-3 after the first frame, they rebounded in incredible fashion, outscoring the opposition 14-1 in the second period to take a 17-9 halftime lead. From there, it was all gravy, as the Lady Buffs outscored Seminole 8-6 in the third and 10-5 in the final frame, securing the 35-20 win.

Brittney Hergert had eight points and three rebounds, while Maria Ortiz recorded eight points and five boards. Raegan Haggard added six points and four boards and Jahnia Willard had 4 points, with two rebounds.

Going 2-1 in the tournament brings the Forsan Lady Buffs' overall record to 8-5 as they take a few days off before hosting Colorado City Tuesday night at 6:30

NBA

From Page 9A

3-on-3 in some cases.

"It's good to be back on the court, to hear the balls bouncing and see your teammates," Heat forward LeBron James said. "It's a great day to be

The biggest news was likely yet to come, and New York was in the epicenter of specu-

Chandler was on his way to New York, though was not yet a member of the Knicks. A person with knowledge of the Knicks' plans told The Associated Press that the team is planning to use the amnesty clause to waive Billups and possibly make other moves before having the ability to free up space for Chandler and what could be a \$58 million deal over four years.

"I'm glad he's with us and not against us," Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire said about Chandler.

start of Magic camp, amid reports that he was seeking a trade to New Jersey.

Howard showed up for the

"As of right now," Howard said, "I'm here."

Orlando was close to making one trade, working on finalizing a deal to acquire Glen Davis from the Boston Celtics for Brandon Bass.

"Baby was terrific for us. He was," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said about Davis. "It will be different. We had an emotional conversation. I wish him well."

The Magic made a slew of other moves, including the signings of veteran guard Larry Hughes and former Boston draft pick Gabe Pruitt.

Boston finalized its trade with Milwaukee, acquiring guard Keyon Dooling and a protected 2012 second-round draft pick from the Bucks. The move helps Milwaukee clear salary cap space. The Bucks also get the rights to forward/center Albert Mirall-

Arenas still gets his money, of course — amnesty only means that teams can rid themselves of salary for cap and luxury-tax calculation purposes.

Teams could begin signing players and completing other transactions at 2 p.m. Friday, with most set to begin practice shortly afterward. The lockout lasted more than five months, leading to a shortened 66-game season that starts on Christmas Day. With about two weeks to set rosters, teams were expected to make dozens of moves Fri-

A day after the Paul trade fell apart, the All-Star guard showed up for work in New Orleans. In Los Angeles, Pau Gasol — another part of the deal, he was to be sent to Houston — was at Lakers camp. Lamar Odom, who was presumed to be bound for New Orleans, showed up more than 90 minutes late for that first practice of the post-Phil Jackson-era, then left after meeting with general manager Mitch Kupchak.

On Friday, though, it seems Paul could be soon on the move again.

"We're talking about everything. Everything is on the table," Hornets general manager Dell Demps said.

In Phoenix, a person with knowledge of the deal told The AP that Grant Hill is returning to the Suns on a \$6.5 million, one-year deal, and later, the team announced that Vince Carter was waived. That move was expected, and only \$4 million of Carter's contract was guaranteed any-

The Suns also added guards Shannon Brown and Sebastian Telfair, who tweeted a picture of his new jersey and said, "I'm back. Thank god!!!! So blessed."

In Miami, point guard Mario Chalmers was smiling as he signed a new deal that could be worth up to \$12 million over three years, swingman James Jones and forward Juwan Howard agreed to new contracts and center Eddy Curry — who has played in 10 games over the last three years — arrived to

formally join the East champions as well.

The Heat practiced with only six available players while contracts were getting finalized. Mike Miller (hernia) and Eddie House (left knee) are under contract, but recovering from offseason surgeries.

"Excited to be a Heat. Miami, thank you for our welcome, we'll do our best," new Heat forward Shane Battier wrote on Twitter late Friday, just after he signed.

In Portland, the news of the day was grim and kept coming in waves.

The Blazers were told guard Brandon Roy will not play this season because of knee problems, and there were widespread reports that Roy is retiring. And while Portland re-signed oft-injured center Greg Oden, it did so while saying he has "suffered a setback."

Oden has played in only 82 games in his first four seasons while dealing with major knee issues, and the Blazers are bracing for him to potentially miss this entire season as well.

"I'm obviously disappointed with the setback, but I'm as determined as ever to return to the court," Oden said. "I appreciate the support of the Trail Blazers and our fans and that they continue to stand behind me."

Blazers forward-center La-Marcus Aldridge will miss about a week, the team said, after undergoing a procedure "to evaluate the status of the electrical system in his heart." Aldridge had a similar procedure in 2007.

A person familiar with the decision said the Sacramento Kings agreed to a \$21.3 million, four-year deal with free agent center Chuck Hayes. The team also re-signed free agent guard Marcus Thornton for \$31 million over four years. Thornton averaged 21.3 points in 27 games with the Kings last season after getting traded from New Or-

Plus, the Kings completed the signing of No. 10 pick and former BYU star Jimmer Fre-

For San Antonio, T.J. Ford was on the training camp roster, as was Richard Jefferson, who's widely believed to be an another amnesty candidate. The Los Angeles Clippers completed the signing of Caron Butler for a reported \$24 million, three-year con-

The Lakers signed sharpshooter Jason Kapono, a twotime winner of the league's 3-point shootout contest at All-Star weekend. It's a homecoming for Kapono, a Long Beach, Calif., native who played his college basketball at UCLA.

BIG BEN

From Page 9A

Marshall.

That wasn't necessary, though Roethlisberger's prognosis remains vague.

Though X-rays taken during the game showed his ankle wasn't broken, he underwent an MRI on Friday to get a closer look. The results weren't immediately available, though he remained optimistic he will play

when the Steelers (10-3) travel to San Francisco on Dec. 19.

The way Roethlisberger figures it, if he can stand up at all he'll give it a shot. It's what

"People want to hate on him all they want, but the guy is one of the toughest competitors in this game," defensive end Brett Keisel said. "He plays hurt. He's got a broken thumb, who knows what's wrong with his ankle. But we're a very good team with him behind cen-

One, however, that showed just how much it relies on Roethlisberger during his brief absence. Backup Charlie Batch failed to complete either of his two pass attempts and took a sack. The team's third quarterback, Dennis Dixon, was placed on the inactive list before the game.

The Steelers know the only real shot they have of getting back to the Super Bowl is with Roethlisberger in the game. Even if injuries force him to get creative on how he does his job.

His handoffs to running back Rashard Mendenhall in the second half were far from textbook. He basically lunged in Mendenhall's direction, hoping Mendenhall would find the

Dropping back to pass wasproblematic, though Roethlisberger a way to complete 8 of 12 passes and after getting knocked around in the first half was barely touched in the second as his offensive line played some inspired football to keep their co-captain upright.

"We want to be stout as an offensive line and protect him so he doesn't get in that situation in the first place," left tackle Max Starks

"But when he does bounce back from those types of injuries it puts a premium on protecting him. We said we weren't going to let anything happen to him."

Nothing did, even though the line played without center Maurkice Pouncey, who left in the first half with a right ankle injury, the same ankle that held

him out of the Super Bowl last February. Pouncey, like Roeth-

lisberger, had an MRI on Friday. Unlike Roethlisberger, Pouncey can't play on one leg though he said after the game he believed he could work through it.

The line certainly needs the Pro Bowler. Pittsburgh could have closed out the Browns early in the fourth quarter but was stuffed on four runs inside the Cleveland 3.

"For us to have four shots down there and not get it done, that's unacceptable," guard/ center Doug Legursky The defense didn't es-

cape unscathed. Defensive end Ziggy Hood left early with a groin injury, and there's a chance the team could be without linebacker James Harrison following a helmet-to-helmet hit on Cleveland quarterback Colt McCoy late in the fourth quarter.

McCoy was scrambling when he briefly tucked the ball as if to run. Harrison closed in, but McCoy pulled up and flipped a pass to running back Montario Hardesty a split-second before getting drilled by Harrison.

The 2008 NFL Defensive Player of the Year matter what."

Great Breakfast. Great Day!

was flagged for roughing the passer and could face fines and further disciplinary action from the league office.

defended

his actions, saying he believed McCoy was a runner at the time. McCoy left briefly but came back to throw an

Harrison

interception in the end zone, setting up Roethlisberger's game-clinching pass to Brown. Brown caught the

ball near midfield then weaved his way through the Cleveland secondary before scoring.

No one was happier with the result than Roethlisberger, and it had little to do with the touchdown.

"I'm proud of him and glad he scored because I wouldn't have been able to make it down there if we had to run another plav." Roethlisberger

He was kidding. Probably. Odds are if Brown found himself tackled that the Cleveland 1, Roethlisberger would have found a way to get to the huddle, even if his linemen had to go Leftwich

"I wanted to be there for the guys," Roethlisberger said. "I wanted to let them know that I'm going to be there and I'm going to fight no

at breakfast

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NFL is seeeking more Congressional help

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NFL is looking to add a little political muscle to its efforts to get human growth hormone testing started this season.

The league is recruiting Republican House members who are physicians to sign a letter pressuring the players union, which has resisted implementing a provision in the latest collective bargaining agreement to begin HGH testing.

In an email obtained Friday by The Associated Press, an NFL lobbyist asks congressional staffers to urge their bosses to sign a letter by two House Republicans urging the NFL and NFL Players Association to begin testing this season.

Brian Gaston of the Glover Park Group

tells the staffers he'd like many of the 21 members of the "GOP Doc Caucus" to sign.

The letter was authored by Georgia Rep.

Phil Gingrey, co-chairman of the doctors'

caucus, and Tennessee Rep. Phil Roe, caucus vice chair.
"Given our unique perspective as doc-

tors-turned-lawmakers, we believe that preventing HGH's illegal possession and use — particularly among young people — is an important public health policy goal," reads the letter, which has not yet been released publicly.

"Those who take HGH without a prescription are breaking the law and risking numerous negative side-effects, including cancer, diabetes, hypertension, harm to reproductive health, thyroid problems and abnormal growth of bone and connective tissue," the congressmen add.

The latest collective bargaining agreement between the NFL and union includes a provision to begin testing players for HGH — contingent on the union agreeing to the testing methods. The NFL Players Association has asked for more scientific data to prove the most popular test is reliable

"The union has raised concerns about the validity of the tests — though

See NFL, Page 12A

NCAA approves Buckeyes' request through bowl games

COLUMBUS (AP) — Ohio State asked for and received NCAA approval to exceed the limit of football coaches on staff through the Buckeyes' bowl game.

The existing staff, under Luke Fickell, will prepare the Buckeyes on the field in the days leading up to and including their Gator Bowl game against Florida on Jan. 2. Then there is incoming coach Urban Meyer, who will handle only recruiting while hiring his own assistants.

Athletic director Gene Smith said the split staffs were "normal in some transitions." He added, "We are operating within allowable NCAA and Big Ten rules."

Ohio State requested the waiver permitting the

arrangement and it was verbally approved by the NCAA on Nov. 28, the day the university officially introduced Meyer as its new coach. Fickell has served as an interim since Jim Tressel was pressured to resign on May 30 in the wake of a scandal involving Buckeyes accepting cash and tattoos for signed memorabilia.

The waiver specifies that no more than 10 coaches — and no more than seven at any one time — may be involved in recruiting. Ohio State asked for the waiver because otherwise it would have exceeded the maximum number of allowed coaches under

NCAA rules.
There have been

some rumblings at other schools that the waiver gives Ohio State a competitive advantage because their coaching staffs must deal with bowl preparations and recruiting at the same time — with no additional people.

Michigan coach Brady Hoke was asked about the coaches waiver on Friday. "It's different. That would

be my reaction. I've never heard of it," he said. "Is that an advantage? Yeah, I think so."

Later Friday, Illinois introduced new coach Tim

See **NCAA**, Page 12A

Sex abuse claims reach amateur ranks

 ${\rm ORLANDO~(AP)-Two~former~basketball~players~have}$ accused ex-Amateur Athletic Union president Robert "Bobby" Dodd of molesting them as children, according to an ESPN report.

The AAU confirmed late Friday that it is investigating the claims, which reportedly date from the 1980s. One of the players, 43-year-old Ralph West, told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" he was assaulted in Memphis in 1984.

Both West and a second unidentified man said news re-

Both West and a second unidentified man said news reports about the Penn State child sex abuse case prompted them to independently confront Dodd in November. The player, who spoke to ESPN on the condition of anonymity, said he called Dodd on Nov. 11 and that Dodd apologized for the alleged abuse. ESPN confirmed an eight-minute call to Dodd by examining telephone records.

Memphis police said in a statement that it had been contacted by the AAU and was looking into the allegations.

"The Memphis Police Department takes allegations of

child sexual abuse very seriously," Memphis Police Director Toney Armstrong said. "Although this case has its challenges due to the amount of time that has passed, it will be thoroughly examined; and if the investigation reveals the law was violated, the person responsible will be held accountable."

AAU Acting President Louis Stout released a statement Friday saying that the 63-year-old Dodd has colon cancer and will not return to his positions as president and executive director.

Stout also confirmed that the organization is conducting its own probe.

"The AAU has recently been made aware of some serious allegations about President Robert W. 'Bobby' Dodd, dating back several decades," the statement said. "The AAU has opened an independent investigation into these matters and also has contacted local law enforcement in Memphis, where the activities allegedly occurred. We will actively cooperate with any and all authorities to determine the facts and the truth."

An AAU spokeswoman said late Friday the group would have no additional comment.

Both accusers said they never went to police and only recently told their families.

According to ESPN, West alleged that Dodd fondled him, tried to fondle him or masturbated in front of him at Dodd's home in Memphis, the AAU Junior Olympics in South Bend, Ind., and tournaments in Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee.

He told the sports network there were a half-dozen times from 1983 to 1985 in which Dodd either molested or attempted to molest him and that in each incident Dodd would sneak into his room "in the middle of the night and you don't hear anything ... and he's trying to reach his hand in your underwear, basically."



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From Page 11A

scientists uniformly agree that HGH testing is credible, forensically defensible, safe and accurate," Gaston wrote in the email soliciting congressional signatures for the letter.

At least one member of the doctors' caucus, presidential candidate and Texas Rep. Ron Paul, didn't agree with the letter.

"Congressman Paul did not sign on to this letter because the NFL is a private organization and should set their own standards without interference from the U.S. Congress," said his congressional spokeswoman, Rachel Mills. "Congress has many other pressing issues to deal with."

Roe's spokeswoman, Amanda Little, defended the lawmakers' focus on HGH.

"It's regarding a health care issue, and that's always very important," she said. Little said that the lawmakers plan to send the letter next week,

and that so far, besides Gingrey and Roe, Rep. John Fleming, R-La., has also signed on.

Gingrey's spokeswoman, Jen Talaber, said that while the congressman agrees there are pressing issues facing the country, "the caucus can walk and chew gum at the same time." She added that sending a letter urging a resolution is not congressional interference.

"We are merely calling attention to a matter of public health, not seeking involvement in brokering an agreement between the two sides," she said. In a statement to the AP,

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said that members of Congress have praised the league's program on performance-enhancing drugs, including the HGH provision. "We have been asked by

members of Congress why that testing has not started this season, as the CBA stated it would," Aiello said, referring to the collective bargaining agreement.

The NFL players union did

not respond to requests for comment Friday.

The letter will be the latest salvo from Congress on the issue. In October, the leaders of the House Oversight and **Government Reform Commit**tee brought in the NFL and NFLPA for a meeting to try to speed up HGH testing. Two weeks later, the lawmakers sent a pointed letter to both sides suggesting the union might be engaging in "stall tactics" to avoid complying with the HGH agreement.

In addition, senior Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee urged that panel's chairman to hold hearings on the HGH impasse. The attempt by the league

to use congressional pressure in a dispute with the players union represents an interesting reversal. During the months leading up this year's

lockout, it was the union that sought Congress' help in preventing the work stoppage. The union drafted letters to send to the league and held a briefing for Congress.

NCAA From Page 12A

> Beckman, a former assistant at Ohio State. He revealed

> that Illinois has also requested a coaches waiver to help during the transition. "I knew that was going

on," Beckman said. "I think it's just something that we're gonna try to do right now so that we have that same advantage that they do."

NCAA spokeswoman Stacey Osburn said the practice was not all that rare.

"The NCAA has certainly received similar waiver requests prior to the bowl season from universities that have recently experienced coaching staff changes," she said in an email to The Associated Press. "When granted, these waivers are temporary, typically lasting through the bowl game, and only provide relief from maximum number of coaches allowed to be employed by the school. To prevent competitive advantage, the

> university still cannot exceed the number of coaches allowed to recruit at any one time and the amount of coaches allowed on the sidelines remains the same."

Smith, who said he had asked for and received the waiver when he was the AD at Arizona State, said he didn't understand why other schools would be complain-

"We have only one coach who is not coaching — and that's coach Meyer," said. "We don't have a whole new staff out there recruiting. Keep in mind, the (other) guys we have recruiting are also coaching.'

The NCAA and Big Ten did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Chris Rogers, assistant athletic director for compliance at coaches working on and offensive coordinator.

either the bowl game or recruiting.

"As is common in situations where coaching staff changes occur prior to postseason competition, the institution filed a waiver with the NCAA to allow incoming coaching staff members to engage in recruiting activities only, while outgoing coaching staff members engage in on-field coaching activities," he said. "Incoming coaching staff members have been added to the institution's list of permissible recruiting coaches as they have been hired. At no point in time has the institution been over the permissible limit of on-field coaches or recruiting coaches."

Ohio State is still awaiting final word from the NCAA on its sanctions for several problems over the past year. Tressel was forced out after it was revealed that he knew players had likely broken NCAA rules by accepting improper benefits from the subject of a federal drugtrafficking probe. Several players were also suspended for taking the money and tattoos.

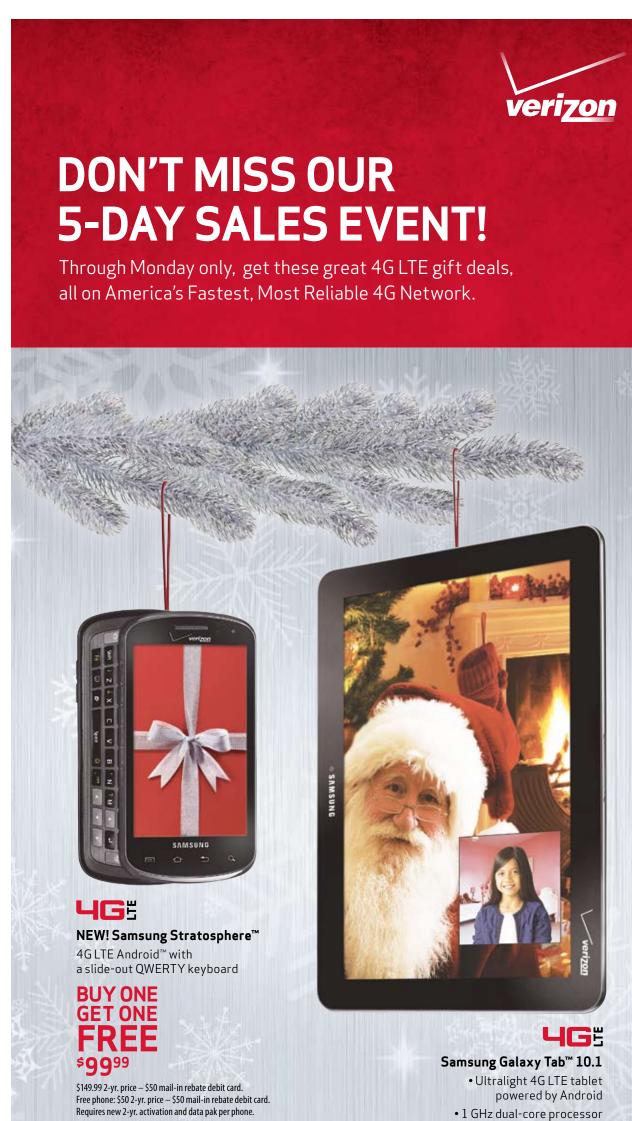
In subsequent revelations, players were suspended for accepting envelopes filled with \$200 for attending a charity event in suburban Cleveland, and other players were overpaid for summer jobs.

The NCAA has charged Ohio State with "failure to monitor" its athletic program as a result of the ongoing problems.

Yet the NCAA officially approved Ohio State's request for the waiver in a tersely worded decision on Dec. 7.

Under the heading "Decision" is the word "Approved." Under "Conditions" the NCAA offered the limitations on the number of coaches who can be involved in recruiting.

The NCAA cited "extenuating circumstances surrounding the changes in coaching personnel and the timing of the bowl game" as the rationale for its decision to permit Ohio State to exceed the number of allow-Ohio State, said in an able coaches on staff. Smith email that the school also confirmed that Iowa State assistant Tom Herman sure that it does not would be joining Meyer's exceed the number of staff as quarterbacks coach





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Page 1B Sunday, December 11, 2011



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Located at 1601 S. Moss Lake Road, Moss Creek Ranch owned by Robert and Jessica Price, will be featured on the Tour of Homes this year.

Five Big Spring far homes to the common Symphony Guild 20 be displaying their ing their communit of their households.

Tour of Homes will Tickets can be purced.

Jesse and Lori Metcalf show off their Satterwhite log home, located at 1005 S. Moss Lake Road. According to Lori Metcalf,

the home was constructed on

site and the interior was

completed by herself and her

Bruce and Belle Schooler have chosen to open their photography and art studio, located at 6414 S. Service Road, to the public and take part in this year's Tour of Homes. In support of the Symphony Guild, Bruce also said a portion of his fee will be donated to the guild on sessions that are booked now through



Jessica Price, will be featured on the Tour of Homes this year. What once was a home, has been transformed into a fine-dining restaurant and bed and breakfast getaway.

Five Big Spring families have chosen to open their homes to the community. As part of the Big Spring Symphony Guild 2011 Tour of Homes these homes will be displaying their festive decorations, but also allowing their community to learn the history behind each of their households.

Tour of Homes will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at each of the houses for \$10.

See more photos on page 10B



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Santa Claus may still be working his way to Big Spring, but he has already left his mark on Chuck and Cynthia Breyman's house, located at 3106 Mountain Shadow in Highland. The selling point on this house was the view. As we all know, the view from the mountain certainly is a good one, especially when it's right outside your front door, according to Cynthia Breyman.



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► Who's Who

Nariah Faith Martinez, 8-year-old daughter of Israel and Toni Martinez of Big Spring, was selected as a candidate in the Distinguished Youth of Texas Scholarship and Recognition Program held Nov. 25-27 at the Marriot Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio. During the weekend competition, Nariah won the title of second runner-up to the Little Miss of Texas titleholder which also included an academic savings bond.

The Distinguished Youth program is designed to recognize girls in grades 2-7 who rank high academically and who are leaders in their schools and communities. The judging criteria used to select the titleholders include the following: Scholastic Record, Service to School and Community, Personality and Poise Projection and Interviews.

Nariah Martinez would like to say "thank you" to all her sponsors: her grandparents Carlos and Miriam Gomez, Granny Louise Molina, dance instructor and owner of the Dance Gallery Miss Stevi, Rudy and Cindy Dominguez, Michael Rodriguez and Phillips Crane and Rigging

Her mom and dad said, "Congratulations, Nariah. You are our little shining star and we are proud of

Meetings and more

• The Big Spring Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday instead of the regular meeting time. The meeting will take place in the Fireside Room on Howard College's campus at 11:30 a.m. After a Dutch treat lunch there will be a performance by the Tardy Bells. All retired school personnel are urged to attend and join our group. Any other interested persons are also welcome.

 The community is invited to a Christmas concert at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, located at Eighth and Runnels. Featured musicians will be First Presbyterian Choir, directed by Michael D. Mitchell; the Tardy Bells Handbell Choir, composed of Big Spring area retired teachers and directed by Susan Dawes; the newly-formed Children's Choir, eleven youngsters from First Presbyterian, First Christian, and St. Mary's Episcopal churches; and organist Michael D. Mitchell at the Petty-Madden pipe organ.

 American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

 Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.



Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 10 years ago. Recently, he started suffering from arthritis in his knees, extreme shaking and stiffness. The problem wasn't that he couldn't move, it was that his movement was too small to get anything done. That's when I talked to him about getting treatment from Accolade Homecare.

Just a couple of weeks into the program and his muscles feel stronger. He's taking bigger steps, walking up and down the stairs and getting into bed without any problems. He can even bend over to pick up the remote. Thanks to the help from Accolade, everything in his life is much better.

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Anniversary



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Menus

Sands ISD

Monday: Breakfast: biscuit and sausage, juice and milk. Lunch: hamburger, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles, tator tots, carrots/ranch, pudding and

Tuesday: Breakfast: donuts, juice and milk. Lunch: chicken alfredo, green beans, sliced peaches, hot roll, frozen yogurt and milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: bacon, egg and toast, juice and milk. Lunch: beef and bean burrito, Spanish rice, seasoned corn, apple and milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice and milk. Lunch: barbecue on a bun, baked chips, pickle spears, corn cobbette, pineapple tidbits and

Friday: Breakfast: muffins, juice and milk. Lunch: golden fish strips, mac and cheese, tossed salad, grapes, Texas toast and milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast: poptoart, juice, milk. Lunch:chicken fajitas, refried beans, seasoned corn, orange smiles, sherbet cup, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: cheese omelet, toast, juice, milk. Lunch: nachos grande, Spanish rice, lettuce and tomatoes, orange smiles, chocolate pudding cup, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: french toast, sausage, juice, milk. Lunch: chili macaroni, savory green beans, whole wheat roll, frozen cherry fruit bar,

Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza, juice, milk. Lunch: pizza, cruncy broccoli salad, corn cobbette, rosy applesauce, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: cereal, cinnamon toast, juice, milk. Lunch: corndog, western beans, celery and carrot dippers, sparkly apple, cinnamon sugar

cookie, milk.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast: cocoa krispies, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: ground beef nachos, border beans, lettuce/tomato salad, fruit cocktail, celery and peanut butter, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: sausage and gravy pizza, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: steak fingers, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, applesauce, orange smiles, roll, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast burrito, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, carrots, pears, roll, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: mini maple pancakes, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: southwest chicken flatbread, tossed salad, ranch dressing, corn, applesauce, holiday ice cream cup, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: breakfast quesadilla, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch: sack lunch, milk.

Senior Center

Monday: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rolls, ambrosia, milk. Tuesday: soft beef tacos, Spanish

rice, lettuce, tomatoes, salsa, apricot halves, milk. Wednesday: beef macaroni casse-

role, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, gelatin salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk.

Thursday: pork tenderloin patty, black-eyed peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower salad, cornbread, plum crisp, milk.

Friday: turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans, sweet potatoes, rolls, pumpkin pie, milk.



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Isaiah 58 receives a donation from H-E-B

Friday afternoon representatives of Isaiah 58 were presented with a \$2,000 donation check from the local H-E-B.

Frank Sickles and Paul Smith, from Isaiah 58, were on hand to receive the check from local H-E-B store director Dave Sandel and Managerin-charge Felix Hernandez.

The money will be used by Isaiah 58 to purchase food items from the food bank which will then be distributed to Big Spring families served by the food pantry.

Isaiah 58 is still looking for volunteers to help unload the truck on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each week. Clients can be served Monday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Reader's Corner

If people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will hear from heaven.

and forgive their sin and heal their land.

I like this definition of heal: to put something right, to repair or rectify something that causes discord or animosity. Be-

fore a harmonious relationship can be reestablished, the sin which caused the

alienation must be dealt with.

Both testaments agree God is willing to forgive because of his love for us.

As Daniel cried in his prayer of confession. We do not make requests of you because

we are righteous but because of your great mercy. We know how sin blinds, how

it hardens the heart and yes it affects not just our relationship with God, but those that

we love. Israel spent 40 years in the dessert, Jonah three days in the belly of a whale.

Don't be a stiff neck,don't harden your heart, when the Lord calls you, learn to surrendering yourself to God.

Whatever animosity you have towards someone will eventually spew out on those you love.

Sin also seperates us from God. There are some today that don't recognize the sin in their lives

or perhaps don't know how to seek God's face. God's face is his perfect will to acknowledge

Acknowledge your sins because the Bible says that even when you don't know it's sin it's still sin find out in God's word what is wick-

Chapter 7:11 says that Solomon finished the house

of the Lord and

the kings house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came

into his heart to make in the house of the Lord and in his own house.

I want to accomplish those things that come into my heart to make his house a place of worship.

David said one thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after.

We need forgiveness, we need our land to be

healed, we need to seek his face. I read that you will be no stronger than the object of your worship.

Find a place, humble yourself in the sight of the

He lovesyou. Let him be the one you worship today, be strong.

JoElle Ludington

Life Policies

The Big Spring Herald has instituted a 600 word limit for all wedding submissions. All wedding articles will be edited

to fit the above listed policy.

All submissions for Sunday's life section must be turned in by noon Wednesday to be published in Sunday's edition. Submitting articles by the dead-

line does not guarantee publication in the Sunday Life Section.

The *Herald* attempts to publish articles in a timely manner but because of space limitations submissions may held until the following week.

For more information, call 263-7331

Christmas Coloring Contest











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- **COLORING CONTEST RULES** 1. Contest open to children ages 2-12
- 2. Limit one contest submission per person
- 3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- 4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but not in coloring pictures.
- 5.All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011
- 6. Winners will be notified by phone on Wednesday, December 21 2011 7. Decision of judges is final.
- 8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
- 9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

Business and Agriculture

SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting item for the Business and Agriculture pages? Call the Herald at 263-7331.

Page 4B Sunday, December 11, 2011



Sandy Stewart, United Way executive director, left, and Gloria McDonald, chamber ex-officio, visited during the Big Spring **Area Chamber of Commerce Open House** on Thursday afternoon. During the open house, community members were able to come in and meet the representatives of each of the agencies located in the building, including **Big Spring Economic Development, Visitors** and Conventions **Bureau, Dora Roberts Community Center** and Leading EDG. The Chamber is on the corner of Gregg and Third streets.

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Loan pact made for railway repair to Big Spring air park

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

After Big Spring Economic Development Corporation held a special executive session, Transport Handling Specialist Inc. is one step closer to making the railway into the McMahon-Wrinkle Air Park operational.

Board members approved a reimbursable loan agreement of \$150,000 with Transport Handling Specialist Inc. The agreement states that the money will be distributed as repairs are made to the 2-mile stretch of railway.

"We approved this as a way to help them become operational as soon as possible," EDC Executive Director Terry Wegman said.

However, before the funds can be released to the company and repairs can begin, the city council will have to give its approval. The special meeting of the BSEDC was held in order to get the agreement on the Dec. 13 city council agenda.

"Once the council has given

its approval the funds can be released and the repairs can begin," Wegman said.

Once the railway has been repaired, Wegman said Transport Handling Specialist has hopes of establishing a short line rail which will not only serve existing air park businesses, but also aid in drawing in new businesses.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.

MERLE NORMAN

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno Merle Norman, located inside the Big Spring Mall, held its ribbon cutting Tuesday after-

noon. Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board members and Merle Norman employees were on hand for the event.

Energy Watch



Bhupen Agrawal is branch manager and a managing director — investments for the Wachovia Securities Midland office.

Bill Franks, AAMS, is a senior registered client associate and the senior associate to the branch manager.



Something got lost in translation. Cable television told the American consumer to burrow deep in a hidey hole ... a double-dip recession was on its way. After all, we have no stimulus bill, the Super Committee failed and there is about to be a complete collapse of Europe. But the bazillion people in those shopping mall lines decided to ignore the pouting pundits of pessimism. They came out in numbers that make Occupy Wall Street look like a bunch of amateurs.

As they have over the past two years, US consumers are still blowing away expectations. Sales for the full first weekend of holiday shopping — Thursday through Sunday — are up 16.4 percent versus a year ago according to the National Retail Federation. On average, each customer spent about 9 percent more than a year ago, while 7 percent more shoppers hit the stores.

ShopperTrak, which has monitoring devices at 40,000 retail outlets and malls around the country, reported a 6.6 percent gain in Black Friday sales. This blows away last year's reported gain of a tiny 0.3 percent. ComScore says Black Friday sales online were up 26 percent from a year ago. The strength was confirmed by Coremetrics, another online data-gatherer, which says Black Friday internet sales were up 24 percent and Thanksgiving Day sales were up 39 percent.

On Thursday afternoon we will get figures on auto sales in November and it looks like they were up for the third month in a row and about 9-10 percent above last year.

So the question is, what have all the pouting pundits missed? First, it seems they want to focus on the overall unemployment rate, rather than the trend. Last November, the unemployment rate was 9.8 percent ... now, it's 9.0 percent. Private payrolls are up an average of 152,000 per month in the past year.

Total private wages and salaries are up 4 percent from a year ago. Meanwhile, consumers have whittled down their debts, so that monthly financial obligations — mortgages, rent, car loans/leases, and other debt service — are now the lowest share of after-tax income since the early 1990s.

No one knows exactly what the near future holds for Europe. We still think the odds favor tough austerity programs that reduce the size of government — a long-term plus. But more sovereign defaults are entirely possible and problems with European banks have yet to be thoroughly addressed.

What we do know is that U.S. consumers are ignoring the experts, appear more confident about their future, and want to spend their hard-earned income. Instead of panic, we've seen a lot of joy ... on both sides of the cash register.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This article was written by Brian S. Wesbury, chief economist for First Trust Advisors L.P., on Nov. 28 and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal, managing director-branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors' Midland office. The report was prepared by First Trust Advisors L.P., and reflects the current opinion of the authors. It is based upon sources and data believed to be accurate and reliable. Opinions and forward-looking statements expressed are subject to change without notice. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security, or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy. Additional information is available upon request at 432-684-7335.

Ask questions and do your research before giving to a charity president, on the ABC ed to fully research its

MIDLAND — Though philanthropists donate to charities all year long, the holiday season remains the busiest time for charitable donations. Whether donating your time, treasure or talent, Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to give wisely.

"It's far too easy for anybody to set up a charity, get tax-exempt status with the IRS, do very little of anything charitable and get away with it," said Daniel Borochoff, American Institute of Philanthropy

News program "Primetime.'

BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability were developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. The standards

seek to encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, to promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations and

to advance support of

philanthropy. Before giving your Accountability:

time or treasure this holiday season, BBB recommends the follow-

• Research the organization. Check with your BBB at www.give.org to get reports on how national charities measure up to BBB Standards for Charity Accountability. Confirm the organization is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) and verify the programs and distribution of money is where you want it to be. According to BBB's Standards for Charity

• At least 65 percent of total expenses should be spent on program ac-• No more than 35 per-

cent of related contributions can be spent on fundraising

For local charities, ask for an annual report or a 990 IRS form to see a

breakdown of where the money is allocated. • Be wary of imitations. Don't be fooled by names that look impressive or that closely

resemble the name of a

well-known organiza-

 Avoid giving personal information over the phone. Since nonprofits are not required to use the "Do Not Call" list, you could receive a phone call asking for a donation. Avoid giving your personal information over the phone and go "off the call" to confirm the legitimacy of the organization before deciding to donate. Avoid giving to chari-

ties that:

• Use high pressure solicitations: A legitimate charity will be glad to program. · Offer prizes: Most

honest charities do not try to entice you to give by telling you that you have won a prize.

 Steer you away from mailing a donation. Dishonest individuals try and avoid doing anything through the U.S. mail to avoid federal prosecution under postal statutes.

To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses,

visit bbb.org. give you the time need-

What's in the deal to save the euro?

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

Associated Press

All European Union states except Britain moved toward setting up a new treaty Friday, giving up crucial powers over their own budgets in an attempt to overcome a crippling debt

Q: Who's in it?

A: All 17 countries that use the euro are definitely signing up. Nine non-euro states Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Sweden and the Czech Republic — said they would consult their parliaments before joining in. In some of those countries, however, parliaments are less than enthusiastic.

Q: Who's not in it?

A: The U.K. gave a clear "no" after it failed to get the eurozone to approve special safeguards for its financial center from EU regulation.

Q: Why did Europe need a new treaty?

A: For the past two years, the countries that share the euro have been rocked by a debt crisis that has recently threatened the survival of the currency. Germany and France in particular argued that only tough rules enshrined in a treaty would convince markets that all countries will be able to repay their debts and a similar crisis will never happen again.

Q: How will that be achieved?

A: Debt brakes in national constitutions: All 23 countries commit to keep their deficits below 0.5 percent of economic output. That cap can be broken to counteract a recession or in other exceptional circumstances. The European Court of Justice will make sure all states' debt brakes are effective.

- More automatic penalties for deficit sinners. In the past, governments often protected their partners from being punished.
- All states have to tell their partners in advance how much debt they plan to take on through bond sales.

Q: What else did they decide? A: The eurozone, together with other willing

EU states, will give as much as €00 billion to the International Monetary Fund to help it rescue troubled nations. The eurozone's permanent bailout fund,

- the European Stability Mechanism, will take over from the current rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, one year ahead of schedule, in July 2012. Unlike the EFSF, the ESM has paid-in capital, similar to a bank, and is therefore more credible on financial markets.
- The ESM's decision-making process was simplified in emergency situations, allowing struggling countries to get financial help if an 85 percent majority of capital holders agree. That is meant to stop small countries from blocking or slowing down urgent rescues, as has happened in the past. The eurozone eased rules that have forced
- banks and other private investors to take losses when a country gets a bailout from the ESM. The previous push to inflict losses on bondholders has been blamed for exacerbating the crisis.

Q: What did they fail to agree on?

A) Eurozone leaders did not decide to boost the overall firepower of their own bailout funds, which is currently limited to €00 billion. They promised to reconsider that cap in March, shortly before the ESM comes into force. – They did not agree to more intrusive pow-

- ers for the European Commission over the fiscal policies of wayward states, as had been demanded by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and some nations. Instead, they promised to "examine swiftly" much more lenient proposals from the Commission. They did not allow the bailout funds to
- directly recapitalize failing banks. That could have prevented countries from taking on more debt when they have to bail out lenders.

Q: Will it work?

A: Stock markets and the euro rose modestly in reaction to the deal, but many details remain to be worked out. Much will depend on whether the stricter fiscal rules can persuade the ECB to unleash massive funds to buy up bad eurozone debt.

Live online tax prep help sign of competitive 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — The competition for your tax more, Big Spring

business is heating up.

struggle.

H&R Block and TurboTax will both offer live online professional help in the coming tax season, aiming to draw customers nervous about making

mistakes or missing out on refund money. The two companies are also providing mobile applications that enable users to file their tax

returns using smartphones and tablet computers, and reloadable prepaid cards to use to receive refunds.

The similarities reflect a more competitive business for tax customers as the economy continues to

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County Court Decisions: Judgment and Sentence:

Jose Anthony Nieto, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 30 days in jail. Judgment and Sentence:

Rebecca Rivas Chavera, theft by check - more than \$20 less than \$500, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 120 days in jail Judgment and Sentence: Bernardo Jacinto Hilario, driv-

ing while intoxicated - open container, \$507 court costs, 50 days in jail. Judgment and Sentence: Martin Hernandez Garcia, failure to identify as a fugitive

from justice - giving false information, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 30 days in jail. Probated Judgment: Cody Ross Welch, driving while intoxicated, \$750 fine, \$457

court costs, 180 days in jail (jail

time suspended, six months probation). Judgment and Sentence: Shane Eddie Anderson, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$282 court costs, two

Judgment and Sentence: Shawn Michael Jones, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$265 fine. \$232 court costs

days in jail.

Probated Judgment: Gregorio Arenivaz Jr., driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation). Probated Judgment: Dalton

Will White, driving while intoxicated (open container) - second offense, \$1,500 fine. \$457 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).

Judgment and Sentence: Garry Montel Stephenson, driving while license invalid with a previous suspension, \$282 court costs, 10 days in jail.

Probated Judgment: Ermenia Chavera, driving while intoxicated - second offense, \$1,500 fine, \$457 court costs, 365 days in jail (jail time suspended, 24 months probation).

Probated Judgment: St. John Garcia, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, \$500 fine, \$342 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation). Probated Judgment: Michael

Edward Baker, driving while license invalid with previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation). Probated Judgment: John

Thomas Martinez, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation). Judgment and Sentence:

Rebecca Rivas Chavera, bail jumping - failure to appear, \$500 fine, \$332 court costs, 90 days in iail. Judgment and Sentence: Jose Anthony Nieto, resisting

arrest, search or transportation, \$500 fine, \$282 court costs, 45 days in jail. Judgment and Sentence: Ismael JJ Rodriguez, possession of marijuana - two ounces

or less, \$250 fine, \$342 court

costs, 30 days in jail.

Judgment and Sentence: Carrie Darlene Bidwell, resisting arrest, search or transportation, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 45 days in jail. Judgment and Sentence:

Carrie Darlene Bidwell, evading arrest or detention, \$750 fine. \$282 court costs, 45 days in Judgment and Sentence:

Carrie Darlene Bidwell, failure

to identify as a fugitive - giving false information, \$750 fine, \$282 court costs, 45 days in Judgment and Sentence: Carrie Darlene Bidwell, criminal

mischief - more than \$50 less

District Court Filings:

than \$500.

Brandi Michelle Kennemur, divorce SLM Education Credit Fi-

Bryan Allen Kennemur vs.

nance Corp. vs. Ruth J. Melton, Capitol One Bank vs. Thur-

man R. White, accounts, notes and contracts. Sandra Lobaton vs. Victor Lobaton, divorce,

Brad Madry and Tabitha Madry vs. WT Appraisal Inc., civil. Steven Wayne Davis vs.

Joetta Lynn Davis, divorce. Jeromaine Gonzales vs. Sonva Gonzales, divorce, Abraham Perez Jr. vs. Rose Mary Perez, divorce.

Marriage Licenses:

Benny Saenz Jr., 31, and Evelyn Marie Munoz, 29, both

of Big Spring. Emanuel R. Gonzales, 29, and Miracle D. Cervantes, 20, both of Big Spring.

Andie Denise Polanco, 18, both of Big Spring. Charles Michael Warren, 53, and Regina Lynne Newsom,

Coby Levi Landis, 21, and

49, both of Big Spring. **Warranty Deeds:**

Grantor: Myrtle Ann Lyndsey, Larry Dale Bennett and Emory Lee Bennett Grantee: Don B. Estill

Property: The N/2 of the E/90 feet of Lot 1, Block 24, Saunders Addition

Date: Dec. 2, 2011 Grantor: Myrtle Ann Lyndsey, Larry Dale Bennett and Emory

Lee Bennett Grantee: Don B. Estill Property: The W/72.6 feet of the S/91.2 feet of Lot 2. Block 24, Saunders Addition Date: Dec. 2, 2011

Grantor: Myrtle Ann Lyndsey Larry Dale Bennett and Emory Lee Bennett

Grantee: Don B. Estill Property: 100.5 feet of the N/80 feet of Lot 2, Block 24, Saunders Addition Date: Dec. 2, 2011

Grantor: William D. Warner and Linda G. Warner Grantee: Elaine Ocoee Moore

Property: A tract of land in the

SE part of Block 14, College Heights Addition Date: Dec. 2, 2011

Grantor: Robert M. Barton Grantee: Michael Rowden Property: Lot 2, Block 2, Whippoorwill Hill Addition Date: Dec. 2, 2011

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Lien:

Grantor: Joe Arispe Grantee: Ricky L. Cunningham and Leticia Cruz Property: Lots 3-5, Block H, Earles Addition Date: Dec. 2, 2011

Sonya Drake Grantee: Tim Benner Property: A 4.3-acre tract out of Section 44, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey Date: Nov. 30, 2011

Grantor: Charles Drake and

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MH Part Time Transporter: High school graduation or GED required Duties include transporting clients to clinic and other community appoint ments. Monthly vehicle maintenance as directed. Responsible to collect and proof monthly mileage logs and gas tickets. Arrange inspections and repairs. Delivers medication to consumers as directed. Hours will vary during 8AM till 5PM not to exceed 35 hrs a week. Salary \$728 an hr.

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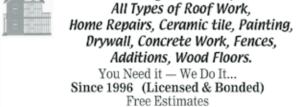
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Pay is \$14.40 an hour. The Full Time Merchandiser is a position that is responsible for merchandising Frito-Lay's complete line of quality products to existing accounts while driving your personal vehicle to several store locations in close proximity. It also includes communicating with personnel and working closely with full time Frito-Lay Sales Representatives in a team environment. The Merchandiser work schedule is based on customer requirements, days off are Monday and Tuesday. This includes weekend and holiday work schedules. The Merchandiser position offers competitive hourly pay, full Company Benefits and a reimbursable mileage policy. Benefits include 401K/ retirement/ stock options, health/ dental/ vision insurance and vacation leave. Candidates must have a solid work history, strong communication skills and an excellent driving record. Please apply online at

HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED at Super8. Apply in-person. Looking for detail-oriented person. team player with minimum 6-mos experience in housekeeping. Starting \$7.50 per hour. Accepting Interviews.

www.fritolayemployment.com

for consideration.

EOE M/F/V/D



JOB FAIR! Class A CDL Drivers Needed! EagleOne is hosting a job fair on December 14th, from 10am to 7pm:

Odessa Holiday Inn Hotel 5275 E 42nd St. Odessa, 79761 We are currently hiring on-demand Class A CDL drivers with 2+ years experience

(off-road and/ or oil/gas industry is a plus!). \$3,000 sign on bonus, competitive compensation,

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479-242-2532 or 432-685-1425 www.goeagleone.com

PIZZA INN NOW DELIVERY HIRING DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

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Join our professional cleaning team! \$10/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.

John Crane Production Solutions has an immediate opening for a Maintenance I Technician at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: maintain, install, and repair a variety of machinery and related equipment. Perform preventive maintenance on buildings, grounds, and machines. Assist with installation and alignment of equipment. Qualified individual should have knowledge of plumbing, painting, equipment repair and electrical wiring, and have some welding experience. Operate forklift. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401K. Apply online www.johncrane.com

NOW HIRING

Smiling Faces! Woodforest National Bank, a leader in the Retail Banking Industry, is looking for enthusiastic individuals with exceptional customer service skills to join our team. *Great Work Environment* *Benefits*

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M/F/D/V

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT LIVING is a locally owned and operated retirement facility. We are a warm, friendly, active community offering a full range of retirement accommodations and services that include three meals a day, housekeeping, transportation, activities, 24 hour on site staff, etc. We are seeking an efficient FRONT **DESK/OFFICE ASSISTANT** to join our team. This person should be assertive, high energy, and comfortable working with the senior citizens. If you're a multitasker who makes the right things happen and done quickly, this is the job for you.

BUY•SELL•TRADE In the Big Spring Herald Classifieds 263-7331

Help Wanted

PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

PHILLIPS CRANE & RIGGING Looking for CDL Driver w/Tanker Endorsement & Exp. Operating a Winch Truck No Experience Necessary. Must be able to work manual labor. Starting Pay: \$15.00/hr Benefits, Holidays & Vacation

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for following positions.

432-264-6600

1305 E. Airpark Drive

Meter Technician/ Electronics Assistant-

Responsible for installing, repairing, and calibrating flow, level, and pressure metering equipment. Position also provides assistance in repair of communication equipment supporting the District's SCADA system. Intermediate level position with basic understanding electronics/ electricity needed.

Maintenance Technician-Responsible for maintaining District's raw the water

pipelines, pump stations, and wells. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement

plans, sick, vacation and

holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas, by calling (432)267-6341 www.crmwd.org

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.



Seeking Experienced Sitters/CNA's to work for Private Duty Clients. Hourly Rate. Call: (432)522-5080. All shifts 1-800-201-5904 available. E.O.E.

TECH SERVICE John Crane

Production Solutions has an immediate opening for a Tech Service Technician at our Big Spring facility. Responsibilities include: provide unmatched customer service, knowledge covering oil well completion, trouble shooting, and failure analysis. Qualified individual should have Clear Driving Record. Experience in general oil well installs, rod delivery, inspection, and down hole pump experience. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401k. Apply online www.johncrane.com

Help Wanted



Shopper Delivery Routes Available Work 2 days a week

Good for Stay at Home Moms, Retiree's or after school income. Must have reliable transportation,

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710 Scurry St. for application. No Phone Calls Please

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Complete an application online at

432-268-7341 or 432-268-7298

https:// accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us Contact Paula Shelburne at 432-268-7464

Once you have completed your application **Big Spring State Hospital** 1901 North Highway 87 Big Spring, TX 79720

STERLING COUNTY Nursing Home now hiring for the follow-

Director of Nursing LVN's CNA's & Med. Aides. Experience preferred, Please (325)378-2134 for more information.

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FOR SALE Mesquite Firewood. \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

FOR SALE: Lighted Christmas Poinsettias, Cactus, Trees and more decorations. All sizes. Call for more information (432)935-5307 (432)264-6117. Come by 1433 Hilltop Rd.

Items for Sale

SEASONED OAK Firewood. \$340.00 Full Cord & \$190.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

Lost and Found

FOUND SMALL brown dog about 2 or 3 months old, has collar. Found in the 400 blk of Westover. Call (432)264-9026 to claim.

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connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

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1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths Unfurnished

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267-5444 263-5555

FOR RENT 2 bdrm/1bath month, \$625. deposit, \$625. East 13th, References 1101 required, 432-517-0038, Agent/Owner.

1104 East 11th Place- Duplex 1 bedroom. Utilities Separate. Stove, refrigerator, Central air. \$485. month, \$350. deposit. Call (469)878-4967

1307 LINCOLN-Remodeled 4 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$775.00 month, \$675.00 deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 816-6992.

1603 AUSTIN- Large efficiency apartment with stove, fridge, and other. \$500 with \$250 deposit. Gas/ Water/ Electricity and Cable Paid. No Pets. Call (432)268-9655.

209 EAST 8th. Cute 1 Bdrm, 1 bath. \$350.00 Month, \$350.00 deposit. Call 432-213-3757.

Real Estate for Rent

FOR RENT 2 bdrm/1bath, \$625.00/month, \$625.00/deposit, 2008 Scurry, References 432-517-0038, required, Agent/Owner.

BEAUTIFUL 2 bdr, 1 bath, washer, dryer, stove & refrigerator provided. Carport, fenced backyard. Pets Okay. \$595.00 rent, \$595.00 deposit. Call 541-292-9825.

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NOW LEASING 1, 2 & 3 Bdrm Built in microwave, Apts. full-size Washer & Dryer included, private patio/balcony w/storage area, playground area, fitness center, and community center. Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. Call Knollwood Heights (432)264-1735.

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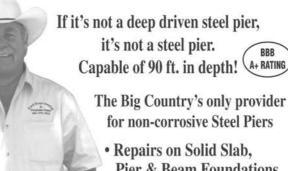
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1811 DONELY- 3 bdrm, 1 bath Detached garage, storage bldg. \$39,000.00 Will \$32,000.00 Call Finance (432)213-0816.

3/2 PLUS Bonus Room. 2403 Carleton. Under Remodel. Owner will Finance. \$15,000.00 Down. WILL NOT RENT. Call (432)264-9907 or 517-0062.

BY OWNER 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop on 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Zoned area. Call 432-466-1616, 413-7400.

BY OWNER: 1004 Baylor, 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick, attached garage, separate large 6 car garage. New AC & heating. No owner finance. (432)270-0851, (432)213-0741.

HOUSE FOR Sale, 3215 Auburn, 4 bdrm/1bath, remodeled, \$64,000.00, No owner Agent/Owner, finance, 432-517-0038.

LOCAL INVESTOR Total Cash Transaction Quick Closing Call Lisa 432-935-5409

Vehicles

2001 OLDSMOBILE Aurora V8, leather, moon roof. Excellent Condition. 54,000 miles. PRICED REDUCED \$4,975 CASHIERS CHECK ONLY... Bruce 806-872-3266 Call Lamesa.

Legals

Public Notice

The County Auditor will receive sealed bids until January 6, 2012, at 10:00 am in Room 202 of the Courthouse, Big Spring, TX for the following property:

Lot 2 Blk 6 Original Town Coahoma

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners Court on January 9, 2012 at their 10:00 session. For additional information call 432-264-2210.

Signed: Jackie Olson, Auditor #7187 December 11 & 18, 2011



Tomorrow's Horoscope

feelings and in many cases dissolves the membrane of personal restraint that keeps us sharing from them. Better to reach out and let someone

know your true feelings while you can than to wait until the emotions fade and lose the vibrant beauty their original

HOLIDAY **M**ATHIS

intensity. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Take your time, and look for the very best deals. There

will probably be some driving involved. Shopping around and doing research now will really pay off in the near future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's an issue you're tired of fighting. Maybe it's not

Legals

INVITATION TO BID

including those that qualify as

SWMBE's for the following: Bid

Electrical Equipment for the Ward

County Water Supply Expansion

Project. Bid Deadline is December

22, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be

received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th

Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869

For more information contact

Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or

Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal

#7191 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,

9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19,

Legals

INVITATION TO BID

The Colorado River Municipal Wa-

ter District and Garney Companies

are soliciting supplier participation

including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following:

Package 5, Slab and Below

Construction for the Ward County

Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 22, 2011

at 3:30 p.m. Bids will be received at

CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more

information contact Marcus Grace (816)536-6485

Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7192 December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19,

mgrace@garney.com

20, 21 and 22, 2011

or

email

Garney

email mgrace@garney.com

Employment/Opportunity

20, 21 and 22, 2011

Package 4,

Pre-Purchase of

The Cancer moon stirs important to be right about this one, after all. Once you realize you don't need to be right, your mind will get quiet.

> **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You will be highly influential. You'll take your own advice and provide a successful example. You'll follow your own suggestions, and others will join in when they see how well they work for you.

> CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are things that will happen that are not to be blamed on anyone. It's nobody's fault. However, there are people who can make it better, and you'll feel lucky to be one of them.

> **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be thinking about the emotional development of your loved ones. You have a special gift that makes it easy for you to accept people as they are and help them grow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a dangerous day

spending. for You're likely to get carried away by the wealth of items in front of you. Know the return policy of the items you buy, and keep your receipts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your work is very important, and you will be thinking about it even when you are not technically on the job. In a relaxed setting, you'll arrive at a truly brilliant conclusion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even the briefest glimpse of divinity will transform your mood. And you're so astute now that you can see heaven in the color of the sky or in the eyes of the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll thrive when you hang out where crowds of people are. Hydration and health go hand in hand. A bottle of water just might be your best friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It seems rather

you're going to eat, drink and rest, and you don't think you need an actual plan for this, but make one anyway. You'll be glad you did.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Once you feel true happiness, you won't settle for less. There are many ways to achieve this happiness, and you'll enjoy more than one of them today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's difficult to say why something bothers you; it just does. You may even feel that you don't have a right to be bothered, but you can assume there's a very good reason for why you are.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 11). Your favorite people will come together to celebrate you this year. You'll go back and forth on a decision in the weeks to come, but by the time 2012 arrives, you'll make your choice and stick with it all year long.

basic to figure out when Your tenacity will bring about a glorious reward. New relationships and contracts happen in June. Leo and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 24, 31 and 6.

CELEBRITY

PROFILES: Sagittarius Hailee Steinfeld was an Academy Award nominee at age 14 and is already thinking about producing and directing her own projects. Steinfeld was born with her moon, Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune all in the ambitious sign of Capricorn. Next, she'll take on the classic role of "Juliet" in the upcoming film of the most famous Shakespearean tragedy of all time.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the

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Dear Margo: A story as old as men and women

The Colorado River Municipal Wa-Dear Margo: I am a ter District and Garney Companies former homicide are soliciting supplier participation

prosecutor in a major city. prosecuted a man ("Jeff") for killing his girlfriend /ex-

girlfriend ("Mary") by shooting her four times in the head while she

was riding in his SUV with him. At the time of the killing, they were broken up, but they had continued communicating with each other.

Jeff and Mary met on prosecutor might bolster taken for a ride — one one of the online dating sites. She moved in with him the day after their first meeting. (I am leaving out a lot of details.) While I would caution anyone against moving so quickly whether you meet online or through other means, I do think people need to take extra care in dealing with those they meet online. However you meet, take things slowly, and do due diligence in checking the other person

I suspect you have written previously about this, but I thought my perspective

your argument. I cannot figure out why people do not make a more serious effort to look out for themselves. — Former

Dear Form: Despite a ton of mail on this subject over the years, perspective vour certainly has been more directly influenced than mine.

I think the wish to take someone at face value may often be just that: the person has "a nice face.'

There are, of course, myriad reasons for why women (and men) are HOWARD

being that they want to be. The wish for a partner or a romance is often stronger than good sense, causing people to overlook red flags. Hope, apparently, is stronger than evidence. And the beat goes on. - Margo, regretfully

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the on lineform www.creators.com/dearma rgo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

MARGO 2011

<u>it's not 🐹 's fault</u> FARAWAY

MARGO

HOWARD





47 Portrayer of

Baby

48 Industry

George in

Bringing Up

pioneered by

Ben Franklin

50 "To clarify . . . "

55 Network once

56 Conversational

companions

58 Hunter's cap

2 Promotional

DOWN

1 Porous

no-no

3 Gross

known as

Noggin

taboo

57 Pan

52 Embellished

53 Venerate



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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Subjugate 8 Some divinity
- studies 14 Sermons, often
- 16 Hard to separate, perhaps
- 17 Kind of canine 18 Hiccup
- remedies
- 19 "Au contraire!" 20 Combative
- 22 Thin 23 Committed
- careerist
- 24 Get on 25 Climber's
- accessory 26 Her father and brother were
- mayors of Baltimore 27 AL, NHL, or NBA
- team 28 Creamery effects
- 30 Features of some fridges
- 32 Some of Ken Jennings' Jeopardy! winnings
- 34 Certain accents 35 Perception, in Parma
- 36 Particular 39 Group wellknown for their spring collection 40 Jug-band
- instrument 42 Shakespearean character urged to "be angry"
- 45 '80s WrestleMania headliner
- 46 Cut drastically

SATURDAY STUMPER by Brad Wilber Edited by Stanley Newman

- 4 Scenes of disarray
- 5 Amazon offering _ Poke
- (caramel candy) 7 New arrival
- 8 Claustrophobe, supposedly 9 Apathetic
- 10 Literally, "skvward"
- 11 "Suit of lights" wearer
- 12 Group seeking satisfaction
- 13 Sonnet portions
- 15 Piercing 21 Aerial anomalies
- 26 Symbol of ease 29 People cover
- poser, July 1980 31 Insipid
- 35 Still Hungry After All These Years autobiographer 36 Piercing

33 Bent

team

worth much 38 Cramped, quite possibly

37 Quarters not

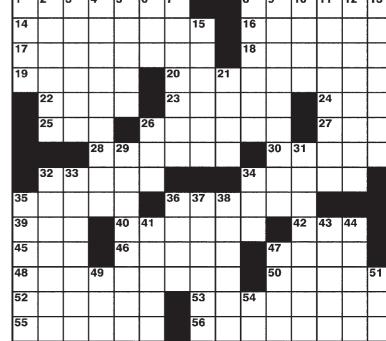
www.stanxwords.com

ecosystems

34 AL, NHL, or NBA

32 Microcosmic

- 41 They'll get under your skin 43 Large plain
- 44 Service VIP 47 Idol runner-up of
- 2003 49 Like some
- beaver habitats 51 Memorable wizard debunker
- **54** __ Valley, AZ 10 11 12 13



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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno Jessica Price, owner of Moss Creek Ranch, one of the five locations on the tour this year, shows off the main Christmas tree before the tour.

MATCH THE SANTA TO HIS WORKSHOP!!

















This entry form must be received by Friday, December 16 at 10 a.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Sunday, December 18th Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

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